MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Israeli Position -- The "terrorists" must all leave Beirut, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reaffirmed in an interview with MA'ARIV. They will not be able to hold out, he said, and the Beirut problem will end within 2 or 3 weeks. In a similar vein, the prime minister subsequently told a U.S. Jewish delegation that the "terrorists" will soon leave Beirut and the fighting will be over, Jerusalem radio reported. Begin said he does not envisage any war in the near future after the fighting in Lebanon has ended. Meanwhile, Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i revealed that the Cabinet is determined to activate a military plan for the capture of Beirut unless some political arrangement is realized within a week or two, ITIM reported.

Israel can solve the Beirut problem militarily but prefers to solve it by negotiation, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the U.S. Jewish delegation in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. While Israel appreciates the importance of U.S. diplomatic efforts, he said, it will not make arrangements through any third party but will sign security arrangements directly with the Lebanese Government. Meanwhile, Israeli political circles stressed that Israel rejects proposals for the evacuation of the PLO in stages by way of northern Lebanon and the Al-Biqa' Valley, Jerusalem television reported. According to a subsequent Jerusalem radio report, Israeli political sources have said U.S. claims that Israel is piling up obstacles in the negotiations may have been made in order to prepare the ground for halting U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission to the Middle East.

Regarding the possibility of Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir visiting Washington shortly, government sources said Shamir will only go if the Israelis believe there is something to talk about, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

PLO Position -- A FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH editorial broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio called on the United States to take the initiative of recognizing the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people. Expressing anxiety that the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers have made facesaving agreements in Washington, the paper said the PLO rejects confining the negotiations to bartering the PLO's departure from Beirut for an Israeli withdrawal. The radio also broadcast a message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that lambasted the "painful indifference" of Arab and Islamic leaders to the invasion of Lebanon, reminding them of their national and religious obligations.

Syrian, Algerian Activities, Stand -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad paid a secret visit to Moscow for talks on the Lebanese crisis earlier this week, AFP reported citing AS-SAFIR. In Washington, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed that Syria adheres to its "clear, constant and principled" stand of refusing to accept the Palestinian fighters, who should only leave to return to Palestine, Damascus radio reported. Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is the important issue on which all efforts should concentrate, Khaddam said. Algeria likewise affirmed that the problem does not lie in transferring the Palestinian Resistance from one Arab country to another but in tackling the central issue of a Palestinian homeland and state, according to Algiers radio. Algeria was surprised by claims that it might agree to receive the PLO, the radio said.

Egyptian Advice for U.S., Phalangists -- The United States can directly recognize the PLO and start negotiations with it, AL-AHRAM emphasized in a commentary reported by MENA. Egypt has warned the Phalangists not to make the historic error of supporting Israel's plans "aimed at destroying the Palestinian people," MENA also reported citing AL-MUSAWWAR.

Military Situation -- Five IDF soldiers were killed when an Israeli patrol encountered a "terrorist" squad which had penetrated through the Syrian-controlled area in eastern Lebanon, ITIM reported. The report added that the four members of the squad were also killed. Meanwhile, five IDF soldiers were injured when an RPG shell hit an Israeli vehicle north of Tyre, Jerusalem radio reported. According to a Voice of Lebanon report, Syria has reinforced its forces in 'Akkar, installing a radar device there, and has brought SAM batteries into Al-Qulay'at. In Beirut itself, sporadic firing and shelling took place round the city and in the southern suburb, Beirut radio reported.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

Egypt has reopened the Tabah border with Israel but insists that arbitration on the contested Tabah region be renewed, according to AFP.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes bombed Baghdad oil installations early 21 July, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on Iraq, Tehran radio reported. It added that one plane crashed inside Iraq. Fighting continued on various fronts and one Iranian Armed Forces communique carried by the radio reported that an Iranian offensive was launched against Iraqi frontlines and successfully destroyed a "large enemy force." Tehran radio reported that Iraqi planes bombed residential areas in Ahvaz and Dezful and many were wounded. According to intelligence sources cited by the radio, Egyptian pilots have participated in bombings of Iranian residential areas. An Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio updated the figures on Iranian losses around Basra, saying that 1,942 have been killed since 19 July.

According to a report by the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told a Baghdad press conference on 20 July that Iranian losses in the current offensive had already exceeded 10,000 dead and over 800 captured. 'Aziz also denied reports that an attempt had been made to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Iran

The United States has not met its obligations under the Algiers declaration and has committed 21 violations of the agreement, the Iranian official in charge of the office for coordination of the Algiers declaration said in an interview reported by Tehran radio. He added that Iran expects Algeria to put pressure on the United States to adhere to the agreements and to publicly announce U.S. violations.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 141 *22 July 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Chedli Klibi Sends Message to Shultz on Remarks [TAP] A 1
Klibi Asks Ethiopia, Somalia To Stop Fighting [AFP] A 1
Khalid al-Hasan on Shultz Remarks, Other Topics A 1
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Jul]
Khalid al-Hasan Grants Interview to HA'OLAM HAZE [21 Jul] A 2
WAFA: PLO 'Prepared To Accept' New UN Resolution [Monte Carlo] A 4
AD-DUSTUR Interviews 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad [21 Jul] A 4
FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH Urges U.S. Recognition of PLO [VOP] A 5
Yasir 'Arafat Thanks Kiprianou for Support [VOP] A 6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Arab Delegation in Washington [21 Jul] C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Sa'ud al-Faysal Comments on Talks With Reagan C 1
Somali Foreign Minister Barre Departs 21 July C 2

PDRY

Economic Delegation Signs Agreements in Tehran C 2
[cross-reference]

EGYPT

Arab Ministers' Talks in U.S. Being Appraised D 1
Mubarak Warns Al-Jumayyil of Siding With Israel D 1
[AL-MUSAWWAR 23 Jul
'Ali Discusses Lebanon, Middle East Issues D 1
AL-AHRAM Calls on U.S. To Recognize PLO [21 Jul] D 4
AL-AHRAM Urges Change in U.S. Mideast Policy [19 Jul] D 4
Border at Tabah Reopened; Meeting Proposed [AFP] D 8
Group of Soviet Experts Begins Work at Factory [AFP] D 8

IRAQ

President Presides Over Cabinet Session 21 July E 1
'Aziz Denies Husayn Assassination Attempt E 1
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 21 Jul]
Syrian Organization To Pursue Antiregime Action E 1
Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques E 2
Communique No 783 E 2
Communique No 784 E 3

LEBANON

Ministers, Others Discuss Current Developments G 1
Sarkis Receives Romanian Presidential Envoy G 1
Sham'un: Nothing Positive Achieved in U.S. Talks G 1
Sa'ib Salam Calls for Political Settlement G 1
[Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 21 Jul]
VOL: Artillery Fire Exchanged in Beirut 21 July G 2
Checkpoints Between Beirut Sectors Open G 2
Soviet SAM Batteries Installed in 'Akkar Area G 3
Front, Bishop Discuss Kidnapped Iranians G 3

SYRIA

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Al-Asad Visit to Moscow [21 Jul] H 1
Khaddam Makes Statement on Washington Visit H 1
Damascus Radio Commentary Views Washington Talks H 1

ISRAEL

Begin Meets Lewis; Kimche Pessimistic on Progress I 1
Warning to Syria [MA'ARIV 22 Jul] I 1
Sharon Addresses UJA; 'Sources' on U.S. Talks I 2
[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Jul]
Begin Addresses United Jewish Appeal Delegation I 3
On Peace With Jordan [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 22 Jul] I 4
Cabinet Holds Special Session on Lebanon 22 July I 4
Shamir Returns From 'Secret' European Trip [AFP] I 5
Moda'i on Military Option in West Beirut I 5
'Senior Figure' on U.S. Position on PLO I 5
Peres on Palestinian Problem, Lebanese Government I 6
Labor Leader on Syrian Interest in W. Beirut Attack I 6
Maimon on Palestinian Housing Plans in Lebanon I 7
[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Jul]
Eytan, Censors Said Working at Cross Purposes I 8
[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Jul]
Sharon Questioned on Arabic Press Censorship I 8
[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Jul]
Press on Reagan-Arab League Delegation Talks I 9
U.S. Has 'Rare Opportunity' in Middle East Mediation I 9
[MA'ARIV 20 Jul]
Jerusalem Arabic Comments on Palestinian Transfer I 11
POST Polls Public on Peace With Jordan [20 Jul] I 12
Egypt Eases Requirements for Tabah Crossing I 12

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

'Surprise' Expressed Over Palestinian Proposal Q 1
Ibrahimi Receives U.S., Soviet Ambassadors Q 1

LIBYA

Iranian Prime Minister Departs 21 July Q 1
Oppositionist on Struggle Against Al-Qadhdhafi Q 2
[Casablanca LE MATIN 7 Jul]

MAURITANIA

Haydala Receives Polisario Special Envoy Q 3

MOROCCO

MAP Reports Victories Over 'Mercenary Gangs' Q 3

SUDAN

President Numayri Addresses Citizens on 'Id Q 4

TUNISIA

President Cancels 'Id al-Fitr Ceremonies Q 4
Prime Minister Mzali on Lebanon Negotiations [Monte Carlo] Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Australian Delegation Briefed on Foreign Policy R 1
Abo Liberation Front Claims Successes in Bale [Mogadishu] R 1

SOMALIA

Defense Ministry Issues Reports on Fighting R 2
Balumbale Clashes R 2
20 July Air Attack R 2
Radio Kulmis Says DFSS Near Regional Capitals R 2
Envoy Welcomes 'Any Offer' of War Mediation [AFP] R 3

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

CDR Explains Acyl Death, Names New Leader [AFP] S 1

CONGO

President Urges Hard Work, Deplores Sabotage [AFP] S 1

ZAIRE

Ministry Official Suspended for Embezzlement [AFP] S 2
New Zairian Ambassador to Israel Appointed S 2

WEST AFRICA

GAMBIA

Ministry: No Representation at Tripoli Summit [AFP] T 1

GHANA

Ambassador to Libya Appointed; Rawlings Comments T 1
PNDC Issues Laws Establishing Special Tribunals T 1
Professionals Ask Unity Government, Elections T 2

NIGERIA

Shagari Sends Message to Zimbabwean President T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Talks With Vernon Walters 21 July U 1

MADAGASGAR

Ratsiraka Reaffirms Position on OAU 'Crisis' [AFP] U 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Angolan 'Allegations' Rejected; SWAPO Warned U 1
Envoy to U.S. Asked About 'Secret Document' U 2
ANC Asks Swaziland To Reject RSA Land Proposal [Harare] U 2

ZIMBABWE

Stuttaford Charged With Plotting Overthrow [AFP] U 2
Official Addresses Assembly on Army Defections U 3
Harare Reports Munangagwa Comments on 'Banditry' U 3
AFP Reports on Recent 'Dissident' Attacks U 4
School Attack U 4
Beer Hall Incident U 4

CHEDLI KLIBI SENDS MESSAGE TO SHULTZ ON REMARKS

LD211821 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jul (TAP) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has sent Mr George Shultz, the new U.S. secretary of state, the following message: Your appointment to head the Department of State provides a favorable opportunity to establish a constructive dialogue between the United States and the Arab world.

During your interview with the congressional committee you demonstrated particular sensitivity to Arab national aspirations and Palestinian rights. The League of Arab States notes with satisfaction this fortunate development, which was a long time in coming.

We would also like to stress that the passivity of the United States in the face of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon undermines the credit it needs to safeguard its role as a great power in order to bring about peace and justice in the region.

You have spoken of your readiness to adopt a more objective and more attentive policy toward legitimate Arab rights and in particular toward Palestinian rights. I strongly hope that better cooperation capable of promoting understanding and the establishment of good relations will be established between the League of Arab States and the United States.

KLIBI ASKS ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA TO STOP FIGHTING

NC220846 Paris AFP in English 0823 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Tunis, July 22 (AFP) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi had denounced "Ethiopia's military aggression" against Somalia, and said he is disturbed by the attack on a member of the league.

In a statement published here, Mr. Klibi noted that both sides involved in the fighting along the Ethiopian-Somali border were members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and called on them to stop fighting and open negotiations. Ethiopia had denied any involvement in the fighting, which it says is being carried out by the dissident Somali Democratic Salvation Front (SSDF) based in Ethiopia.

Mr. Klibi said that the participation of Ethiopian forces in the combat "as indicated by various diplomatic sources" has a violation of international law and of the OAU Charter.

KHALID AL-HASAN ON SHULTZ REMARKS, OTHER TOPICS

PM220713 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 82 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Hasan: We Will Wait and See: We Want Our People's Safety Guaranteed"]

[Text] Washington -- ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Khalid Al-Hasan, chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Affairs Committee and Fatah Central Committee member, that the PLO's immediate objective is "the safety of our Palestinian people in Lebanon, where tens of thousands of them are living in the open while the Israeli invasion forces refuse even to let them have tents, having destroyed their camps." Al-Hasan added: "We must have guarantees for the safety of our people and the preservation of their human dignity until they can exercise their right to self-determination."

Speaking to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from Washington, Al-Hasan said: "For the future we look forward to securing our people's rights, including their right to self-determination and their right to freedom, security and sovereignty, like all other people in the world."

Referring to U.S. public opinion, Khalid al-Hasan said there are two strong and parallel campaigns, one supporting the Palestinian people's rights and against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and the other led by Zionist groups in support of Israel.

Asked to comment on what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said about the Palestine question in Congress before his confirmation, Al-Hasan said: "These are encouraging signs which we hope will crystallize in the right direction, but we must wait and see what attitude the U.S. administration will take toward our cause from now on."

KHALID AL-HASAN GRANTS INTERVIEW TO HA'OLAM HAZE

TA211333 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 21 Jul 82 p 7

[Interview with Khalid al-Hasan, PLO member and aide to Yasir 'Arafat, by Uri Avneri on 16 July in New York]

[Excerpt] Question: I was criticized because in my interview with 'Arafat I did not bring up the problem the Israelis call "terrorism" which you call by a different name. The question is: Will terrorism stop when the Israeli Government agrees to mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, as was suggested for instance by Pierre Mendes-France, Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klotznik in their famous statement?

Answer: Yes, certainly. The answer is affirmative.

Question: In the framework of the efforts for peace?

Answer: Look, Uri, we did not begin aggressive activities because we liked this approach. We did not do it as a hobby. We had no choice. If we can achieve our legitimate rights by peaceful means, why should we resort to violence?

Question: Is this a new trend emerging as a result of what happened in the last war?

Answer: Not at all. The Fatah reduced its violent activity a long time ago. Even in 1972 we agreed with the Lebanese prime minister at the time, Sa'ib Salam, to halt terrorist activity from Lebanese territory. We adhered to it carefully. Only during 1973, during the Yom Kippur war, did we break this agreement and after that we again abided by it.

Question: Certain terrorist acts in the past have left a very deep residue of hate in Israel -- for instance, the horrendous act in Ma'alot.

Answer: It was perpetrated by Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. However, even they did not mean to kill; they wanted to capture hostages in order to free our prisoners. The killing was done because of the Israeli Government's permanent refusal to negotiate in such cases.

Question: What about Munich?

Answer: That was a Fatah action. We did not mean to kill anybody. I do not believe our people killed. The victims fell when the Germans began shooting. This is also true regarding the operation against the bus (near the country club). The intention was for our men -- this was a Fatah operation as well -- to reach Tel Aviv and take hostages in order to free prisoners.

At an interparliamentary convention in Lisbon I suggested that we, the PLO, finance an international, independent probe to investigate how the people were killed: by our men's bullets or by the Israeli security forces' bullets. We offered to finance it. However, this was an exceptional operation. The Fatah has been opposing terror operations for a long time.

Question: Were they carried out by other organizations that belong to the PLO?

Answer: Yes, by the organizations of Ahmad Jibril, Hawatimah and others. In Lisbon I suggested an international investigation in order to check whether the PLO has a part in those activities as well. The investigation will reveal that the PLO is not connected to them and does not finance them. Gradually we managed to impose our authority over those organizations as well and the terrorist actions became increasingly fewer over the years because of our activity.

Question: Will they stop completely when we embark on the path of negotiations?

Answer: Yes, if we can achieve our independence by peaceful means we will not resort to violence. It says that sometimes one must do unpleasant things, sometimes you have to fight even though you hate war. However, if there is a way to establish peace, peace should be established. This is what the Koran says. The peace, of course, should be tied to justice.

Question: When you say the peace, do you mean Palestinian independence in a state that will be established on part of Israel?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And this will be the end? What will happen after that? Would not the war continue as many Israelis fear?

Answer: No. This will be the end of the war. From then on everything will be solved by way of peace and understanding. If the two peoples wish to change things by peaceful means, to establish a confederation, or federation -- something like Switzerland -- they will only be able to do so by mutual understanding and peaceful means.

Question: Do you believe that?

Answer: At least from an economic point of view. Economic independence -- ours and yours -- cannot be reached without a joint economy that will unite the whole country. Economic unity is needed.

Question: Only between our two countries?

Answer: All gates in the Middle East should be opened for everybody's good.

Question: So that there is a common regional market, as I suggested 35 years ago. By the way, do you know what is happeining to the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon?

Answer: According to our information, 60,000 families were chased from the refugee camps, which were destroyed by the Israelis.

Question: Sixty thousand people or 60,00 families?

Answer: Families.

Question: Where are they now?

Answer: They sit in the open, under the trees. The Israelis chased them toward the Syrian lines in the Al-Biqa', and the Syrians did not let them pass. They are stuck there. We have already established four medical stations in order to take care of them.

After that I asked about the conditions of the Palestinians in besieged Beirut. Khalid said he follows the activity of the Israeli peace camp and he knows there are various plans for advancing cooperation between the peace forces on both sides. If some of these plans are carried out the world will hear of some surprising operations.

During the talk I brought up the problem of Mordekhay Herzel Dror, who is also called Menashe David. This man, a cripple with psychological problems, went to Lebanon at the beginning of the war and was caught by the PLO. His family came to me after the interview with 'Arafat and asked me to take care of it. I asked Khalid al-Hasan to check the possibility of handing him over to us as a gesture of good will.

WAFA: PLO 'PREPARED TO ACCEPT' NEW UN RESOLUTION

JN220924 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] The WAFA political commentator announced today that the PLO is prepared to accept a new UN Security Council resolution asserting the Palestinian people's legitimate national right to self-determination, provided it incorporates the principles contained in previous resolutions issued by the council. According to the commentator, Security Council Resolution 242 does not deal directly with the PLO, the Palestinian people or even the Palestine question, but provides for a solution to the refugee question, thereby responding to only one aspect of a complicated problem.

AD-DUSTUR INTERVIEWS 'ABD AR-RAHIM AHMAD

JN211721 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jul 82 pp 21, 24

[Text] Amman, AD-DUSTUR -- 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member, has asserted that the PLO stresses the importance of having the mayors and heads of municipal councils in the occupied homeland continue to shoulder their responsibilities from their legitimate positions.

He said: The occupation authorities' decisions to expel a number of mayors and municipal council heads are illegitimate and will fail to force our people to accept the fait accompli policy, to weaken our people's national will or to peddle the civilian administration plot.

He added: The municipal councils are waging the battle to entrench the legitimate Palestinian presence alongside the steadfast Palestinian fighters. He stated that the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committe will continue its work in spite of everything and will further shoulder its responsibilities in supporting the municipalities and strengthening our people's steadfastness inside the occupied homeland.

He said: At this stage, the Zionist enemy is trying to obliterate many facts about our people's struggle and steadfastness, particularly inside the occupied homeland. The enemy is also trying to accelerate the implementation of the civilian administration led by General Milson. However, our people's awareness has foiled this dream.

Asked about reports regarding the transferral of the Palestinian fighters to northern Lebanon or to Al-Biqa' in stages and about an Arab Gulf state's readiness to receive them, Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad denied them, stressing that Beirut will be a passage leading to Palestine. Beirut, he added, will continue to remain steadfast in the face of the Zionist invaders, whose danger is not only restricted to Lebanon.

He said: Our people, who have carried arms, offered martyrs and endured suffering, will always look forward to returning to Palestine, only Palestine.

FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH URGES U.S. RECOGNITION OF PLO

NC212022 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 82

[FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH editorial: "The United States Should Recognize the PLO"]

[Excerpts] Through a senior official, the United States yesterday said it supports the application of Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509, but that it has not yet reached an agreement with Israel on a timetable for withdrawal. The U.S. official pointed out that Sa'ud al-Faysal and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam put forward new ideas, allowing for a serious search for a resolution to the major question.

We want to point out that the U.S. official's statement, even if it remains mere words or ink on paper, indicates a U.S. insistance that the discussions must concentrate on the priority of an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon as a quid pro quo for an Arab pledge conveyed by Al-Faysal and Khaddam to resolve all secondary issues that limit Lebanon's sovereignty.

It may be premature to be optimistic about the results of the visit of Khaddam and Al-Faysal to Washington, because the U.S. administration does not pay serious attention to all Arab questions. We believe Washington's verbal appeasements have no practical significance capable of curbing the Israeli invasion. Despite this, the official U.S. statements and Sa'ud al-Faysal's clear statement on Lebanon and his vague statement on Palestine indicate that the U.S. administration has become apprehensive of giving Israel a free political rein in Lebanon as it has given it the military rein. If the United States has certain interests in liquidating the PLO militarily, the Israeli plan does not stop at this point. It aims at the political and military liquidation of the PLO and the subjugation of Lebanon to Israeli hegemony and making it subservient to Israel. In other words, as Soviet leader Brezhnev said, the only (?description) of the Israeli invation is that Israel is launching a war of extermination against the Palestinian people.

Perhaps it is useful to pause here and ponder the points of agreement and disagreement between Washington and Tel Aviv regarding the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to see the effects on the U.S. decision as well as where the Arabs stand vis-a-vis the Israeli operation and [words indistinct] to Washington of the dangers of this invasion the Arab and U.S. alternatives to appease Menahem Begin and convince him that his efforts are not in vain and that the PLO is no longer an existing reality.

The things that truly need clarification despite the difficulty involved, in fact, primarily center on this question posed by the Israeli invasion to all Arab regimes: Do the Arab regimes accept that Israel can undertake resolving the internal Arab differences and those in every Arab country? Certainly, according to the strong argument of Sa'ud al-Faysal and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Washington's approval of Israel's requests means the loss of all hope for the establishment of Arab-U.S. relations because the Arabs -- I mean the regimes -- will find themselves forced to look for an international power other than Washington to help them survive as states in the face of the Israeli threat.

This question and the significance of the U.S. statement approving the application of Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509 dictates we ask this question: What is the price that will satisfy Washington to agree to the requests of Sa'ud Al-Faysal and Khaddam?

Before we discuss what Washington considers as new ideas to solve the major question and which certain new agencies have exaggerated, claiming that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arrafat] agreed on Security Council Resolution 242, we maintain that the questions needing explanation are there:

1. Did Sa'ud al-Faysal and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam agree with the U.S. call for evacuating the Resistance from Beirut, and if so, under what conditions and agreements?

2. Has there been any link between Washington's agreement to authorize the Arabs to reach a Lebanese solution and the demand to Washington to change its hostile stand toward the PLO and the Palestinian people?

What in fact we fear most is that what they agreed on is to save the faces of the Arab regimes because, to these regimes, loss of face is more dangerous than the blockade of Beirut, the occupation of Lebanon and the threat to the Palestinian Revolution. We also fear an Arab decision to resolve the Beirut issue in any way in return for sweet words such as we heard after the massacres that befell us in the past.

At any rate, there is an issue that does not need useless argument: that we are fighting in order to achieve for our people part of their rights and to ensure for them a land on which they can live free and proud. By fighting, we have a great political, national and pan-Arab goal that we are seeking to achieve. The Palestinian revolutionary establishment has never been an aim in itself; it is a means to achieve a goal and, consequently, we reject that the discussion be confined to bartering our departure from Beirut for an Israeli withdrawal, because we would be plowing in the sea or writing on water. We do not want to plow the sea or write on water. We are realistic in our revolution and in our (?policy), and live in a world that we have experienced and known and from which we have learned much through our blood. For this reason, we say the U.S. administration is the party that is first required to recognize the Palestinian people's rights. We are not and have not been required to recognize Resolution 242, which cancels our existence. This, the starting point is U.S. recognition of the PLO and of our people's right to determine their future. The U.S. emphasis on support for the Camp Cavid march is a waste of time.

YASIR 'ARAFAT THANKS KIPRIANOU FOR SUPPORT

NC201912 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 20 Jul 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] -- today sent a cable to Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou in which he expresses his appreciation for Cyprus' support of the Palestinian people's struggle against the Zionist invasion. Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked the Cypriot president for hosting the extraordinary ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement to discuss the Lebanese crisis resulting from the Zionist invasion.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM ON ARAB DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON

LD211250 Kuwait KUNA in English 1031 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA) -- Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials Wednesday:

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on the Arab delegation in Washington:

"The U.S. refusal to meet with the Palestinian member in the Arab ministerial delegation to Washington was expected in view of that administration's rejection to meet with PLO officials as long as the organization does not recognize Israel and the Security Council Resolution 242.

"The U.S. attitude is not new nor was it a surprise for America had always refused to recognize the political entity of the Palestinian people.

"The American demand of attaining a Palestinian recognition of Israel is merely a trap to annihilate the PLO without giving any positive response in return.

"The American step clearly points to the mood that would prevail in the talks, that is in accordance with Washington's planning and nothing else.

"The American demand on the Lebanese problem will not change in bargaining the safety of Beirut for the Palestinian and Syrian eviction of Lebanon promising to consider the Palestinian question in future and considering an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in the event of Lebanon's signing of a similar Camp David treaty with the Jewish state.

"The current American Zionist offensive aims at subjugating the Arabs to surrendering terms which will pose as a fatal destiny to Arab posterity.

"We should then exploit the situation by inflicting painful cost to the presence of Israeli troops in Lebanon along with dealing blows to the American interests in the region to display our practical capability to joint action and resistance in face a long and extensive struggle".

SAUDI ARABIA

SA'UD AL-FAYSAL COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH REAGAN

GF220554 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, members of the six-member committee that stems from the Arab summit conference, met with U.S. President Ronald Reagan yesterday evening.

His highness described the meeting as successful and frank and said the talks were fruitful. In a statement made after the meeting, he said the talks focused on UN Resolutions 508 and 509 which call for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. His highness refused to divulge the details of the talks until he briefs the Arab League's member states on their results. He explained there is a serious desire to reach an early settlement, achieve the integration of the Lebanese territories and bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Answering a question about imposing sanctions on the United States of America, his highness said it is not yet time to discuss this issue.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday and reviewed Saudi-U.S. relations with him. They also discussed the Lebanese issue.

Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced that the delegation of the six-member committee which stems from the Arab summit conference has received assurances that the U.S. Government realizes that any solution to the Palestinian question must eventually lead to the establishment of a national home for the Palestinians. In a television interview with the American ABC, CBS and NBC television networks following the delegation's meeting with President Reagan, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the delegation perceived that the U.S. Government's intentions are to enhance the peace efforts that depend on Lebanon regaining its independence and integrating its territory. His highness added that the committee's delegation, which represents the Arab League, demands the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory to be part of continuing efforts to accomplish peace in the Middle East and implement UN Resolutions 508 and 509.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced that the Arab world welcomes all the Palestinians and said their ultimate destination will be nowhere but Palestine, and that we want them to return to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He explained that the problem's resolution is in the method of returning them to their homeland.

His highness said he did not hear any suggestions on the existence of a plan to transfer the PLO to a region outside the Middle East. The foreign minister expressed astonishment over the U.S. refusal to negotiate directly with the PLO. He asked: "If the United Nations and many other international organizations have already recognized the PLO, what makes the United States believe recognizing the PLO is such a serious matter?"

His highness blamed the United States for the current situation in Lebanon and held it and the entire international community responsible for the deterioration in the situation, particularly concerning the UN resolutions. The foreign minister accused Israel of attempting to fully abolish the Palestinian problem. He said the Israelis claim that they have become impatient, as if it is Tel Aviv which is besieged and not Beirut.

Talking about the possibility that the kingdom may impose sanctions on the United States if the Israelis occupied west Beirut, his highness said: We desire to contain the situation and not increase its complexity. He refused to give any details on the talks that took place with President Reagan, saying they were sensitive and he did not want to destroy them.

Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed hope that the aggressive actions will be stopped immediately and said Iraq wants an unconditional cease-fire. He added that he wishes Iran would accept that.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER BARRE DEPARTS 21 JULY

LD211100 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Jidda, 21 Jul (SPA) -- Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre left Jidda today after visiting the kingdom. During his visit he handed a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. He was seen off at the airport by the Somali ambassador to the kingdom and representatives from the Foreign Ministry protocol office.

PDRY

ECONOMIC DELEGATION SIGNS AGREEMENTS IN TEHRAN

For Tehran reportage on the 17-20 July visit of a PDRY economic mission, headed by Industry Minister 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal, to Tehran, during which oil and trade agreements were signed with Iranian officials, see the Iran section of the 21 July South Asia DAILY REPORT.

ARAB MINISTERS' TALKS IN U.S. BEING APPRAISED

NC212017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1942 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has contacted Washington to follow up the results of the Saudi-Syrian contacts with U.S. officials.

In Thursday's edition, AL-JUMHURIYAH says Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal has received a report on the mission of the Arab League's delegation, which includes the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers, and on the ideas which have been exchanged with the U.S. President and officials of the U.S. administration.

The paper points out that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is preparing a comprehensive appraisal of all aspects of the Syrian-Saudi move in Washington.

MUBARAK WARNS AL-JUMAYYIL OF SIDING WITH ISRAEL

NC212147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2054 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) -- The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that in an important message to Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the Lebanese Phalangist militia, Cairo has expressed its extreme concern over any contraventions that the Phalangists may get involved in by participating in the Israeli plan to liquidate the PLO.

In its weekly issue to be published the day after tomorrow, Friday, the magazine says the message, which is signed by President Mubarak and which was delivered to Col Fu'ad Malik during his meeting in Paris with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, points out a number of important facts. Foremost of these facts is that Egypt believes the liquidation of the PLO through the storming of Beirut will not lead to stability in Lebanon, especially because a half million Palestinian people are still living in Lebanon. The greatest possibility that would result from participation in this plan would be a strong wave of terrorism from which neither Lebanon nor the Phalangists would be spared, nor would the unity of Lebanon and both its Muslim and Christian populations be stable.

The magazine says the second fact outlined in the message is that the Phalangists would make a historic error that would be difficult to erase, particularly if their image is consolidated in the Arab world during this ordeal as an ally supporting Israel's plans aimed at destroying the Palestinian people.

The magazine says the third fact emphasized in the message to Bashir al-Jumayyil is that if the Phalangists do not reconsider their previous stands objectively, they will find themselves in the near future isolated from the Arabs and they will face the danger of a continued Israeli occupation and an entrenched influence in Lebanon.

The message points out that the situation dictates that the Phalangists rise above old fueds and refrain from hampering any positive efforts aimed at safeguarding the PLO's pride. The magazine says the message stressed that Lebanon's unity and its future stability and ability to rebuild what the war has destroyed will depend on the current behavior of the Phalangists.

'ALI DISCUSSES LEBANON, MIDDLE EAST ISSUES

NC211622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has again demanded that the Arab states be aware of their responsibilities during this critical stage in the history of the Arab nation. He said: Our stand as Arabs will be extremely disgraceful and regrettable if the Arab nation does not realize these responsibilities now.

In exclusive statements to MENA, 'Ali further demanded that the Arab differences be discarded so as to extinguish the fires that have spread in parts of the region, because now it is indeed required that we discard these differences.

The deputy prime minister emphasized that the Palestinian question, the rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination are the main and only key to a solution of the Middle East problem. He referred to the events in Lebanon, saying: They must never divert us from our long-term goal -- a just solution of the Palestinian problem.

'Ali pointed out that it is time that the efforts of the peace- and justice-loving states centered on supporting the Palestinian people to determine their future.

Regarding President Mubarak's call for an Arab summit to discuss the current Arab situation, 'Ali asserted that there is an Arab desire to hold an Arab submit which Egypt will attend. He added: This desire was heard in the calls of Jordanian King Husayn, Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and earlier in the call by President Mubarak to convene an Arab summit.

Regarding the current negotiations on the situation in Beirut and the intensive efforts among Cairo, Paris and Washington, the foreign minister said: What we are doing and what we in Egypt are interested in is quickly ending the bloodshed in Lebanon, expediting Israel's withdrawal and directing all efforts toward solving all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

Answering a question regarding the current U.S. stand on the present crisis and whether there is a feeling this stand will change following the appointment of George Shultz as the U.S. secretary of state, 'Ali said: Maintaining the cease-fire in Beirut is actually something which all of us want and seek, because Israel's invasion of Beirut would mean another massacre, a matter that would greatly affect the peace process for a long time.

The Egyptian foreign minister expressed his belief that the U.S. administration fully shares this view. Regarding the strategy for solving the Lebanese problem, it is obvious it has actually been the opinion of the United States from the beginning that all the forces should withdraw from Lebanon and that a strong Lebanese Government should be formed. What is actually the subject of the continuing consultations is the method of dealing with the present situation, its facts and its effects on the comprehensive solution, which is our goal and preoccupation.

'Ali explained that the change in the U.S. stance on the Palestinian question and the PLO is a change in method -- the method of dealing with the Palestinian problem, that is the dynamism of establishing peace.

Asked if the change in method means a possible dialogue between the PLO and the United States, 'Ali said: This is what we asked the United States to do years ago. He pointed out that these issues are the subject of consultations and discussions with the U.S. administration. He further pointed out that the message which President Husni Mubarak sent to U.S. President Reagan yesterday deals with this issue as well.

Commenting on the proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to establish a confederation between Israel and Jordan to be preceded by a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty, 'Ali said: Our primary issue now is the Palestinian question, and we must not be preoccupied with initiatives, solutions or proposals. He added: Our main issue is the Palestinian question. After this, let anybody talk with whomever he wants, but the settlement of the Palestinian question must never be forgotten by us.

Asked whether the inhuman Israeli invasion of Lebanon means that the Camp David agreement has been buried, 'Ali stressed that this allegation is absolutely untrue. He said: this agreement must remain in force, because it is the only factor to which Israel is committed so far despite the fact that it has regrettably violated it in many of the proposals and ideas it submitted to solve the problem.

Answering a question on the future of the autonomy negotiations in light of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the foreign minister said: As a result of the aggression, it is natural that we cannot speak about peace in an atmosphere of war. The Israeli aggression must stop first.

Answering another question on whether the serious events taking place in the Middle East -- in Lebanon, between Iraq and Iran and between Somalia and Ethiopia -- mean there is an agreement among the major powers to balkanize the Middle East and redraw its map through the creation of conflicts and small alien racist entities in the region so that Israel will not remain the only alien entity in it, 'Ali said: What is happening is not the result of an agreement. It represents the conflict of the major powers in the region, and it is undoubtedly a conflict for spheres of influence in it.

'Ali explained that the struggle for interests in the region is very big. He expressed his regret that many states in the region have permitted the polarization operation, saying that the natural result of this is that the Middle East will become an arena for conflicts and for war, be it a cold or hot war.

'Ali said the next step which the states in the region must take is to act immediately to extinguish the fires spreading everywhere in the region, particularly the fire of the Iraqi-Iranian war, which must stop immediately.

Asked what stand Egypt will adopt if Iran enters the Iraqi city of Basra and makes it impossible for Baghdad to reach the Shatt al-'Arab, 'Ali replied: Egypt's stand is known. We are helping Iraq to defend and safeguard its territory. Since the first moments of the outbreak of the war, we have called for stopping it at once and said it is necessary to resolve all differences through negotiations. This is the successful method of the present age for solving.

Answering a question on the chances of holding the nonaligned states summit conference in Baghdad in September in light of the grave war raging between Iraq and Iran, the foreign minister said: Iraq has expressed its readiness to provide all that it is necessary to hold the conference. The convocation of the conference in Baghdad will depend on the military situation in the war and the extent of security that can be provided, and we hope it will be provided.

Regarding the African summit that will be held in Tripoli this year and whether this means that Egypt will stay away from the OAU for a year, 'Ali said: We have declared our stand we will not attend this conference which will be held in Tripoli because of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's role, which violates the contents of the OAU Charter. He added: This absolutely does not mean we will stay away from the OAU, but we will only stay away from this conference. We are one of the OAU founders and we are eager to support and strengthen it. Egypt is represented in all the OAU bodies, and it is active in them. It also has strong relations with all the African states.

'Ali explained that the Tripoli meeting is one thing and work inside the OAU and its establishments and with the African states is something else, which we are keen on.

Asked if there was any progress in Egyptian-Arab relations, the foreign minister replied: Undoubtedly, there is marked progress. Morocco sent its foreign minister to Egypt and Iraq sent its justice minister. He added that there are continuous consultations between Egypt and Jordan. He said Egypt has and will always receive senior officials of foreign states.

In conclusion, 'Ali said that because of current events in the region, he has postponed until next year the tour he was scheduled to make this summer and which would have taken him to Southeast Asia, Australia and Canada.

AL-AHRAM CALLS ON U.S. TO RECOGNIZE PLO

NC212224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AHRAM asserts that the parties concerned in the Middle East problem and its entangled offshoots no longer have any alternative except for each party to take positive and tangible steps, because the situation no longer tolerates engagement in the proposals of one party and then the counterproposals of the other.

In a commentary in Thursday's issue, AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the United States can directly recognize the PLO and start negotiations with it. In addition, the European countries can play the role of a firm mediator in coordination with the United States, instead of being content with calling for an end to the war. They can do this by using specific methods to apply tangible pressure.

The paper warns that the (?slowness) of negotiations and the continual collision with natural and fabricated obstacles threaten to stop them. The paper says it is indeed regrettable that the only "positive" step looming on the horizon is in the hands of Israel, a step to launch a decisive military action.

Concluding its commentary, AL-AHRAM affirms that if Israel carries out this military action, the situation will be further complicated and become more explosive, perhaps for years to come. This would make the other parties concerned more impotent in reaching the cause of the problem to tackle it. In addition to this, their direct and indirect interests will be endangered as a result of precipitating in new strong waves of chaos and instability in the area.

AL-AHRAM URGES CHANGE IN U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

PM211555 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Jul 82 p 7

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "Where do the Limits of Danger in the Middle East Stand After Shultz' Statement?; 'Change' in U.S. Policy Must Begin"]

[Excerpts] The "mirror" war in the Gulf has once again broken out. Almost 2 years after Iraq attacked Iranian territory, Iranian forces are penetrating Iraqi territory. Just as Iraq claimed when it invaded Iran that the road of Jerusalem passes through Tehran, the leader of the Iranian regime alleged when invading Iraq that the road to Jerusalem passes through Baghdad. The claim in both cases is baseless, and the Palestinian problem has nothing to do with it. Iran and its supporters, whoever they may be, are in fact stabbing in the back that cause and those working for it in various parts of the Arab homeland. While the Arab countries were desperately trying to get out of the explosive situation in Lebanon with a solution that would ensure Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and the integrity of its soil and the recognition of the Palestinian rights, Iran was setting the Gulf on fire and putting all the Arab countries on the brink of a terrible war the consequences and results of which cannot be predicted.

Whatever the reasons and motives behind the Iranian invasion following Iraq's peace proposals, the biggest motive seems to be the exploitation of the difficult conditions the Arab nation is experiencing. There is nothing more tempting to the enemy to deal his blow than the state of weakness resulting from division that has turned the Arab countries into camps bitterly fighting one another instead of dealing with one another in a civilized manner, in which they agree or disagree without abandoning the minimum need for joint action. When the Arab countries abandoned this method and gave preference to their disputes they were distracted from the dangers menacing them. It was perhaps the same conditions that encouraged Israel to go so far in its invasion of Lebanon and its quest to wipe out the PLO, thinking that this would wipe out the Palestinian people's aspirations. But what is unforgivable on the part of Islamic Iran is that it too should strike at this people's struggle while they are engaged in a decisive battle to obtain their rights in the midst of this tragedy and also deal a blow to the Arab countries' efforts as they are facing the fateful issue.

Events have undoubtedly proved once again that the Palestinian problem is the principal problem in the Middle East. They have also proved that comprehensive peace cannot be achieved while the problem remains unresolved on the basis of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their state on their own national soil, since the local wars in the area, including the Gulf war, are the result of interwoven reactions which have led to instability resulting from internal pressures in the Arab countries and from tensions caused by the policies of major powers.

Certainly internal conflicts in the area will increase unless all the major powers concerned with the Middle East problem hasten to pursue the right course to resolve the problem in all its aspects. Had such action been taken in the past or, at least, had the move toward a peaceful settlement begun earlier, the situation would not have deteriorated to what it is now. The Palestinian problem is the key to peace and stability because its solution provides the best proof that conflicts can be solved by peaceful means and that peaceful coexistence between peoples is possible.

In the light of these facts one can realize the great responsibility shouldered by all the powers influencing the conflict, both the Arab countries and the major powers, including the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

With regard to the Soviet Union, it is absent from the settlement, although it was one of those who formulated its terms. It was among the countries that unanimously agreed on the British draft resolution which the Security Council endorsed in November 1967 and which has become known as Resolution 242. The Soviet Union was also without a doubt among the countries that sought to support the Palestinian people's rights as endorsed by the world community. If we take this into consideration, then we should not belittle the Soviet role. Despite the Soviet Union's implicit agreement with the United States that the two powers should remain aloof from the conflict and that the Palestinian problem cannot be solved by military force, and despite the fact that it lacks the capabilities to move the situation toward a solution, it can obstruct a comprehensive solution in the manner it did when its supporters at the Fes conference thwarted the Fahd plan and when it adopted its recent attitude toward the situation in Lebanon.

The development of events may bring about a change in the Soviet Union's stand, but so far it has only proved that its policy is primarily to find a new foothold for itself or expand its influence in that vital part of the world that extends from Morocco on the Atlantic to Afghanistan, which is occupied by Soviet forces. The Soviet Union exploits local conflicts, the vacuum theory, and the mistakes of its main competitor, the United States, to implement its policy. These three factors remain the Soviet Union's main bulwark in its advance toward its objectives under the banner of "detente," while it remains a strong supporter of trends opposed to the U.S. policy — trends of which there are many in the world because they are justified, particularly with regard to the Palestinian problem.

With regard to the United States, its policy toward the Middle East -- if there is such policy, indeed -- is confusing friends more than enemies, despite the fact that the United States is the one dealing with the problem because of its very special relations with Israel, its special relationship with many of the influential Arab countries and its assumption of the role of full partner in the peace process. What is most confusing is the course which President Reagan's administration has followed from the beginning in dealing with the Middle East problem. It has considered it as a problem connected only with East-West relations and preoccupied itself with the so-called "strategic consensus" in the area more than anything else. It is a foolish idea which former Secretary of State Haig canvassed in the area while talking about the Soviet danger at a time when no Arab saw danger except the danger evident in Israeli policy, as recently shown in Lebanon. Subsequently, the United States only recently seems to have admitted that the real danger to stability in the area lies in leaving the Palestinian people's problem without a just and lasting solution.

However, what is interesting is that when Reagan announced Haig's departure from the State Department he announced that this did not mean a change in U.S. foreign policy because that policy comes from the White House oval office. Although this is true, a failure to change U.S. policy would be a cause for distress. There are many aspects of this policy that need urgent reappraisal. This feeling is not confined to the Arab countries but is also shared by a large number of the U.S. allies, who go so far as to say that causes of friction and tension between the United States, as leader of the alliance, and the West European countries are building up seriously. Foremost among these causes is the Middle East crisis.

If we look at the general U.S. policy we find that Washington has become concerned over the possibility of Western Europe's becoming more dependent on Soviet gas from Siberia but has shown no serious interest in the concern felt throughout Europe because of the danger of stoppage of Arab oil, the lifeline of Europe and the Western economy in general. U.S. policy has no doubt jeopardized the oil flow, for several reasons:

First, the Begin government's policy will of necessity contribute to stirring up disturbances in the area and to the emergence of generations of Palestinians who are more radical.

Second, if U.S. policy fails to deal with the essence of the problem, it will lead to changes in the policies of the moderate Arab countries.

European circles do not hide their concern over that the Soviet Union seems to have gambled on a situation such as this, patiently waiting for it to happen and for the moderate countries in the end to come closer to the radical countries.

Third, the spread of the Gulf war will certainly lead to the destruction of oil pipelines and the stoppage of oil supplies -- the possibility of which makes the European countries shudder.

In this regard it cannot be denied that U.S. policy and the Western countries in general are largely responsible for what is happening in the Horn of Africa, which could also threaten the maritime oil supply routes. Ethiopia too has exploited the state of Arab weakness and attacked Somalia, apparently to make it abandon its territorial claims in western Somalia. Washington's excuse for not supplying Somalia with deterrent weapons against aggression is that it might feel strong enough to use the weapons in settling its disputes with Ethiopia. It is worth noting here the contradiction between the theory that the United States applies to Somalia and the theory it applies to Israel.

Moreover, the United States adopts this theory despite the fact that it did not guarantee the commitment of the regime in Addis Ababa to a policy of peaceful negotiations, since that is beyond its ability because of the Soviet presence in Ethiopia.

These are the points that need a radical change in the U.S. stands; they need a change consistent with the need to fulfill the Palestinian people's aspirations, which are also the aspirations of all the Arab peoples. Such a change is necessary for the United States itself if it really wants to strengthen its relations with the Arab countries and protect its interests in the area. In doing so it must realize the facts brought home by the Lebanese tragedy. It is quite obvious that the defeat of the PLO -- if that was the objective -- will not stop the Palestinian people from continuing to adhere to their objective of establishing an independent state. It is obvious the Palestinian people's morale has not been destroyed; it is the Palestinian people who are the fundamental basis of the PLO and not the other way round. And since Israel cannot annihilate the Palestinian people, then it cannot destory the PLO.

If we judge matters as they appear, we find encouraging signs of change in U.S. policy, which the Arab countries must exploit in the interest of joint action at this critical phase in their history. These signs were evident in the statements of new U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Defense Secretary Weinberger. In his first statement Shultz underline the importance of recognizing the legitimacy of the Palestinian people's aspiration, of finding a solution acceptable to all the parties to the conflict in Lebanon, of calming the anxiety of the countries concerned with the crisis, of the world community's endorsement of the peace plan, and of the importance of preserving U.S. interests, foremost of which is ensuring the flow of oil.

A fair person cannot but admit that Shultz recognizes the basic demands of a peaceful settlement, but the main difference between Washington's stand and the stand of the Arab countries still centers on the terms that Washington sets for the achievement of a settlement, some of which are based on the Israeli viewpoint and constitute a gross misrepresentation. The first of these conditions is that the United States will not enter into a dialogue with the PLO unless it deletes from its Charter any reference to the destruction of Israel and unless it declares its recognition of Israel's right to exist. This is unjust because the national charter does not contain reference to the destruction of Israel. Also, the PLO has accepted Israel's existence on many occasions, the latest of which was, according to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statement, when it accepted President Leonid Brezhnev's plan for the Middle East.

Moreover, direct U.S.-PLO dialogue could lead to a clearer view of the right course through a more frank and realistic language, that is, if the PLO is assured that the objective of the negotiations is to achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations. Direct dialogue could explain many stands, and it is time for it to begin once circumstances have negated the pledge which former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made to Israel.

Not only dialogue is required of the United States, since it must also combine its intervention in the Lebanese crisis with a clear commitment to peace in a manner that will persuade the Palestinians first of all to participate in the peace process and make other Arab countries, particularly Jordan, join this process. This is the great challenge, as Shultz said. As for concentrating on ousting the Palestinian fighters from Beirut without dealing with the ramifications of the problem, this does not constitute a solution to the problem.

The fedayeen in Beirut represent only 0.15 percent of the 4 million Palestinian people; They are responsible for representing the people's struggle and its movement in the Arab world and abroad. The extent of their success can be judged by the price -- in property and lives -- Israel is ready to pay to eliminate them. If in Israeli eyes the Lebanon operation is to be a victory for those who want no solution in the Middle East, it has achieved nothing for moderation, nor has it liquidated those who insist on exercising their legitimate rights.

BORDER AT TABAH REOPENED; MEETING PROPOSED

NC211350 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, July 21 (AFP) -- Egypt has re-opened its disputed Sinai border with Israel at Tabah on the Gulf of 'Aqaba despite strains in relations between the two countries caused by the Isareli invasion of Lebanon.

But in a message sent yesterday to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali insisted that arbitration on the contested Tabah region be reopened. Negotiations have been suspended since April 25 when Isarel withdrew its last contingent of troops and settlers from the Sinai Peninsula in accordance with its peace treaty with Israel.

The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM reported that Egypt had proposed a meeting August 1 in Alexandria of technical and legal committees on Tabah in the presence of a U.S. representative.

Observers here believe the resumption of talks will be a test of the viability of Egyptian-Israeli relations that have been damaged during the Lebanese situation.

Egyptian sources have spoken of a "crisis of confidence" afflicting ties between Cairo and Jerusalem. Several visits to Israel by Egyptian Cabinet ministers, arranged before the invasion, have been indefinitely postponed, they said, while a number of organized trips for Egyptian tourists to Israel have also been cancelled.

GROUP OF SOVIET EXPERTS BEGINS WORK AT FACTORY

NC211512 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Cairo, July 21 (AFP) -- A group of Soviet experts has returned to Egypt to finish construction of a cement factory suspended when they were expelled from the country last September, the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSSAWAR said today.

Other groups of Soviets are expected to arrive during the summer, the journal said, without specifying the number of the first group.

Egyptian officials said 65 Soviet specialists were expected here this year on individual, five to eight-month contracts to resume pending projects started with Soviet assistance in various Egyptian industries.

PRESIDENT PRESIDES OVER CABINET SESSION 21 JULY

JN220605 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] President Saddam Husayn presided over a regular Cabinet session last night. During this session, the Cabinet considered a number of items on its agenda and adopted the appropriate measures.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president of the republic; RCC members; and the head of the president's office and secretary general of the RCC.

'AZIZ DENIES HUSAYN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

PM220707 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 82 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Baghdad -- Iraq yesterday officially denied that an attempt was recently made to assassinate President Saddam Husayn as reported by some foreign newspapers. At a press conference in Baghdad last night, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said this report is completely untrue.

He also said the war with Iran is continuing and that if the Iranians have managed to occupy a small area not exceeding 1-4 km they will definitely be thrown out within hours. He emphasized Iraq will continue to pound Iranian economic installations as long as Iraqi towns are bombarded.

Referring to Iraqi losses, he said: We do not care about the losses as long as we are defending our homeland and our soil.

He stressed that by yesterday evening Iranian losses exceeded 10,000 dead, hundreds of tanks and other vehicles destroyed and 817 captured.

'Aziz said the Soviet Union has not taken any stand on the Iraq-Iran war but North Korea did supply Iran with large quantities of arms.

He reaffirmed Iraq's support for Jordan and for its territorial integrity and independence. He said: We reject the suspect Israeli plan to make Jordan an alternative homeland for the Palestinians.

SYRIAN ORGANIZATION TO PURSUE ANTIREGIME ACTION

JN211422 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Damascus, 21 Jul (INA) -- A Syrian organization has stated it will continue action to topple Hafiz al-Asad's regime and to establish a multiparty parliamentary regime.

The organization, which is called the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria, issued a statement at the end of its constituent assembly meeting in which it said it will fully shoulder its responsibilities by adopting all available courses for toppling Hafiz al-Asad's regime.

The statement points out that the constituent assembly had made several decisions in this respect and had entrusted the secretariat general with their implementation.

At the end of a series of meetings it held in Syria early this month, the Constituent Assembly of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria said in its statement that the Syrian regime has severed all its links with the people, burned its bridges, lost its power to act independently and has become a tool that is manipulated by Zionism and international forces.

The statement adds that Hafiz al-Asad's regime will be called to account by history for the crimes it committed when it unjustly and oppressively placed Syria's potential and capabilities at the disposal of the Iranian enemy and stood in one trench with Zionism against Arabism and Islam.

The statement says the Syrian people and homeland are innocent of the successive crimes that are burdening the regime of Hafiz al-Asad and through which this regime seeks to fan sectarian sedition, undermine the people's deep-rooted unity and break up the close bonds that exist between Arabism and Islam.

In conclusion, the statement calls on the Arab nation, brother Muslims, international public opinion and free men throughout the world to condemn Hafiz al-Asad's regime. It also calls on them to support our militant people in the sacred battle that they are waging with courage and honor for liberation, the consolidation of independence, the protection of their national unity and Syria's affiliation to Arabism and Islam.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 783

JN211715 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Communique No 783 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To ward off evil and aggression from our people, nation and beloved homeland, the proud Iraqi people and their capable armed forces continue their just fighting against the forces of the rancorous Khomeyni clique. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant units continued to strike at enemy positions and concentrations east of Basra. After a clash with enemy units, our forces killed 1,942 and destroyed 15 tanks, 6 armored personnel carriers, 23 vehicles -- 4 of which were equipped with 106-mm guns -- 4 rocket launchers, 5 guns and 2 excavators. Our forces also captured one serviceable armored personnel carrier, two guns and quantities of light and medium weapons. These enemy losses include those mentioned by the military spokesman yesterday evening.

2. At 0624 today, two Iranian Phantoms tried to approach Baghdad. As soon as one of the planes came within the range of the missiles entrusted with the task of defending Baghdad, it was shot down. This plane was piloted by the commander of the formation. The other plane fled without coming closer to the missile's range. The formations deputy commander, 1st Lt Mansur Kazimyan, was captured, and Lt Col 'Abbas (Zarwan), pilot of the plane, commander of the formation and assistant director of Iranian Air Force operations, was killed.

3. In response to the Iranian enemy planes' attempt to approach Baghdad this morning, the valiant aircraft of our air force raided enemy economic targets in the cities of Ahvaz and Dezful today, scoring direct, effective hits against them. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 July 1982

Communique No 784

JN220848 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Armed Forces General Command Communique No 784 issued on 22 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Khomeyni insists on confirming his evil and aggressive nature even on days holy to Muslims. This has been his nature since coming to power in Iran and since launching his large-scale aggression against Iraq in September 1980.

Khomeyni has chosen these holy days -- days in which God forbids fighting and bloodshed, because on such days the faithful are supposed to devote themselves to charity work -- to escalate his crimes against Iraq and even the Iranian people who have been afflicted by his evil and tyranny. Khomeyni is literally pushing the Iranian people into the grinding mill of devastating war.

Thus, Khomeyni has chosen the day of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr to commit a new crime against Iraq. This mad criminal sent his forces to commit an aggression against our border last night. They attempted to cross this border and enter our territory in the operational sectors of the Muhammad al-Qasim, Sa'd and Salah ad-Din forces in the Basra region.

Fierce battles began at 2230 yesterday in which the Iraqis demonstrated once again that they are the righteous sons of this good land and its air and water. The glorious Iraqi Armed Forces did well in these battles. They fought like lions defending their den. At the beginning of its offensive the enemy succeeded in penetrating 4 km into our territory in the operational sector of the Sa'd and Salah ad-Din forces. The Muhammad al-Qasim forces succeeded in foiling the enemy offensive in their operational sector, both by fighting enemy forces in their positions and by launching an immediate counteroffensive that was a splendid success.

The enemy was crushed in the Muhammad al-Qasim forces' operational sector. All its forces were wiped out with the exception of those who were captured.

In the early hours of this morning, the Salah ad-Din and Sa'd forces launched a counteroffensive against the enemy after they had succeeded in checking and containing its attacking force. They are still courageously pursuing the remnants of the enemy forces, which have retreated in disarray. Some of the enemy forces were captured, but most of these forces were destroyed. The enemy sustained thousands of dead and great damage to equipment, some of which was left behind on the battlefield.

Glorious Iraqis, your revolution, which stems from your land and conscience, makes holy days occasions for generosity, charity, good works and mercy. It is merciful even to those who harm it and commit mistakes against it, because it is a revolution for the sake of welfare and sacrifice.

As for the regime of evil, hatred and darkness in Tehran, it has chosen these holy days as occasions for killing and annihilating the Iranian people who have been afflicted by it.

Sons of great Iraq, with God's help and will, your days on this blessed 'Id will be full of victories. The Iraqi territory, which the enemy has tried to desecrate in the Basra region, will be a big graveyard for the greedy invaders. The Basra area and every part of great Iraq shall remain pure and precious. On Doomsday, this land will bear witness to the crimes of charlatan Khomeyni and his collaborators.

This charlatan has falsely claimed that he was inspired by God to attack Iraq. God has never ordered evil against devout believers who believe in Him and carry His message. Khomeyni also named his offensive after Ramadan in an attempt to desecrate this holy month by crimes of murder, treachery and aggression. The Almighty God has disgraced Khomeyni and inflicted on him the punishment he deserves for his blasphemy and aggression. Thus, he was defeated and disgraced during the past few days. In order to cover up his despicable crimes, this charlatan again sent his forces in an offensive on the last day of Ramadan and in the morning of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Thus, God Almighty punished him severely once again, and exposed his blasphemy and lies.

Praise be to God Almighty for His kind gesture to us on this blessed day. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 July 1982

MINISTERS, OTHERS DISCUSS CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

NC220939 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Minister Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamdah this morning visited [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam and discussed with him the latest developments in light of the outcome of the Washington meetings and the proposed solutions for the crisis. Last night, Minister Hamadah visited Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, [former] Prime Minister Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, and His Eminence Mufti Hasan Khalid.

In addition, Walid Junblatt and Ministers Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah and Deputy Albert Mansur discussed international diplomatic and local political developments.

SARKIS RECEIVES ROMANIAN PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY

NC211730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] At 1600 today, President Ilyas Sarkis received the special envoy of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, who arrived in Lebanon today on an official visit. The meeting lasted about an hour. They discussed the current developments in Lebanon. Romanian envoy (Vasile Bunka) briefed his excellency the president on the nature of his mission to help establish peace in Lebanon.

SHAM'UN: NOTHING POSITIVE ACHIEVED IN U.S. TALKS

NC211750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Amidst the current developments, wounded Lebanon is still waiting for peace and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from its territory. It continues to depend on the results of the discussions that were held in Washington.

At a meeting it held today, the Lebanese Front discussed the results of the Washington discussions vis-a-vis the situation in Lebanon. [Former] President Camille Sham'un said the front had great doubts about the results of the U.S. President's meeting with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Syria. He pointed out that, according to the news available so far, nothing positive has been achieved.

Sham'un said there are two options for solving the problem of the besieged Palestinians in west Beirut. The first option is political and diplomatic negotiations and the second is the military solution. He said the first option is preferrable. He asserted that the presidential elections will take place at the time called for in the Constitution. He expects them to take place before the middle of next month.

SA'IB SALAM CALLS FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

LD211238 Kuwait KUNA in English 1052 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA) -- Former Lebanese Premier Sa'ib Salam has said that political settlement is the only option left to resolve the Lebanese crisis following the Israeli invasion of the country.

Talking to AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper in an interview published here Wednesday, Salam, the chief negotiator between the U.S. envoy Philip Habib and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, voiced his all-out support for the Lebanese legitimacy describing its attitudes as "sound and correct".

On the Palestinian withdrawal from Lebanon, he said 'we must help them to make an honorable pullout and will have to continue to support them till the end.'

Salam underlined that Israel's brutality has gone too far to help the trio, Begin, Sharon and Shamir, to resolve the question of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon through military operations. He ruled out any success for the French initiative for settlement unless it is in line with efforts made by U.S. envoy Philip Habib on behalf of the American administration and under the Israeli pressure.

Asked to comment on the insistence by some of the parties of the [words indistinct] legitimacy not to let the Palestine Liberation Oganisation have any political or military presence in Beirut, the former premier said the PLO does not want to stay in Beirut especially after it realised that the Palestinians' military struggle was not the only way to reach their legitimate rights.

Questioned if he expected a European role in a settlement for the current crisis in the region, Salam said the European role has been so far hampered by the American pressure. However, the Europeans had taken some positive steps towards the Middle East crisis, but these are, nonetheless, insufficient, he explained.

The French move was an exception, Salam went on, since the French people are historically sympathetic to Lebanon, a fact French leaders cannot ignore. He added that the new French Government had lost considerably since the Socialists came to office and now it wants to cover up these political losses through some initiatives which are sometimes crippled by the U.S. stand.

Asked if he would form a new Lebanese government, Salam emphasised that (?he had) no such ambitions and that over the past few years he was able to serve the government and the country in general more comprehensively than when he was premier.

VOL: ARTILLERY FIRE EXCHANGED IN BEIRUT 21 JULY

NC220552 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Excerpts] The exchanges of artillery fire intensified from 2300 [2100 GMT] last night up to 0600 today on the axes of the southern suburb. Shells fell heavily in Hayy as-Sullum and the science faculty area, passing through the Palestinian positions in Burj al-Barajinah. As flares were being fired over the area, helicopters flew over and gunboats anchored in front of the Khaldah coast joined in the shelling. The shelling and the exchanges of gunfire expanded to include the sea areas of the [southern] suburb, Burj al-Barajinah camp, Al-Fakihani, Bi'r Hasan, Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda', Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Al-Barbir and the Arab University of Beirut. Some shells fell in east Beirut; they were indiscriminately fired by the artillery of the Palestine Liberation Army from the contact points in the capital. Damage from the shelling has been confined to material things.

It has been revealed that the shelling carried out by the Israeli forces during the night in the capital's suburb was in retaliation for the Palestinian operations in Al-Biqa' and the border area.

CHECKPOINTS BETWEEN BEIRUT SECTORS OPEN

NC220931 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] West Beirut and its southern suburb are today witnessing cautious calm, especially after spending a stormy night during which there was an exchange of artillery fire between the Israeli forces and the joint forces.

This morning, three shells fell in the Al-Hazimiyah area. The security reports did not mention any damage taking place.

The situation at the crossing gates (between west and east Beirut) remains the same. Movement between the two sectors was moderate yesterday morning and low in the afternoon. The Museum Gate is open in both directions to military and diplomatic vehicles and to pedestrians and to civilian vehicles which are going to the eastern sector. The Port Gate has been open since this morning to vehicles of diplomats, military personnel, and the Lebanese and International Red Cross. The Galerie Sim'an Gate was opened a short while ago. Earlier this morning, there was sniper fire in this area. Movement from the eastern sector to the western sector at Galerie Sim'an is permitted on foot. For the vehicles of the diplomats and military personnel, movement is permitted in both directions. Civilian vehicles are permitted to move from the western sector to the eastern sector.

SOVIET SAM BATTERIES INSTALLED IN 'AKKAR AREA

NC211338 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] A report received in Beirut from the north indicates that the Syrians have reinforced their forces in the 'Akkar area after bringing SAM batteries to the vicinity of Al-Qulay'at. This type of Soviet-made battery has not been used in the Middle East area yeat. A radar device has been installed on the 'Akkar heights in Al-Qammu'ah.

In the Palestinian arena, heavy weapons have been moved from the Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps and armed men of both camps have been deployed to areas outside Al-Baddawi and Al-Barid.

FRONT, BISHOP DISCUSS KIDNAPPED IRANIANS

NC211650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The Lebanese Front has discussed the results of the meetings held in Washington on the situation in Lebanon. It has also reviewed with Bishop Az-Zughbi the situation in the Ba'labakk-Al-Hirmil area in light of the wave of kidnappings there as well as the available information on the Iranian diplomats.

For his part, Bishop az-Zughbi said he is mediating with those concerned in order to learn the fate of the Iranians who have been kidnapped. He is doing so in response to the request of the (?kidnappers) and the inhabitants of Ba'labakk. He explained that he has had a series of contacts with the army, the general security, the Lebanese Front and the Lebanese Forces, who affirmed to him that the Phalangists have no connection whatever with the issue. He also said the Lebanese Front has placed all of its capabilities at his disposal to help him find the kidnapped individuals.

Bishop az-Zughbi believes that an attempt is underway to create sectarian discord at the hands of the kidnappers. But, he added, this will not succeed. He asked the kidnappers, who are teachers, as he said, whose children are being taught in our schools, to release the rest of the kidnapped people because they are innocent.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM ON AL-ASAD VISIT TO MOSCOW

GF211440 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 21 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Beirut -- Well-informed diplomatic sources have told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has made a secret visit to the Soviet Union lasting several hours and that he met with senior officials in the Kremlin.

The sources stressed that the talks focused on the situation in Lebanon and on political and military prospects. However, the sources did not indicate whether or not the Syrian president met with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev during his visit to Moscow.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned that the Syrian leadership believes the next battles will take place in Beirut, Al-Biqa' and the mountain. President al-Asad told those who visited him during the past 3 days that Beirut will come under aerial, naval and artillery bombardment. This will be coupled with firm attempts to tighten the siege around the capital and perhaps an occupation of some parts of the southern suburbs and the airport with the aim of blackmailing the Resistance during political negotiations. Some of President al-Asad's visitors quoted him as saying that Al-Biqa' will be the scene of battles.

KHADDAM MAKES STATEMENT ON WASHINGTON VISIT

JN211308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Washington -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Syria's stand on refusing to accept the Palestinian fighters -- who should stay where they are and should not leave except to go to their homeland, Palestine -- is clear, constant and principled.

In a statement prior to his departure from Washington last night, Khaddam said: The important issue on which all efforts should be concentrated is the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from Lebanese Territory. This is the crux of the visit we paid to Washington -- legitimacy should not be given to the Israeli aggression because of the savage and criminal acts it has perpetrated.

Khaddam stressed that the Palestinians are not a commodity that can be sold and bought so that they can be evacuated and removed in accordance with the wishes of any side.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY VIEWS WASHINGTON TALKS

JN211545 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] President Ronald Reagan met yesterday with the delegation of the six-member committee stemming from the Arab foreign ministers conference. The delegation included 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. This delegation has been entrusted with outlining to the United States the views of Arab League member states regarding the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Similar delegations had earlier briefed the UN Security Council's permanent member states on the same issue.

The talks now taking place between the Arab group and the United States are significant, because the United States is one of the two superpowers in our world and has permanent membership on the UN Security Council. This country enjoys the right of veto, which it has frequently used to serve Israel's interests against Arab interests. The United States can get its hands on most Arab oil profits and resources as well as the oil assets the oil-producing Arab states have deposited in U.S. banks and financial establishments. Furthermore, the United States has armed Israel and supplied it with financial, diplomatic and military aid, thus encouraging Israel to attack and occupy others' lands, commit crimes and violate international laws and charters. Therefore, some countries have accused the United States of being responsible for the Israeli rulers' policies and stands and say that, were it not for unlimited U.S. support, Israel would not be able to carry out its aggression or dare to challenge the international community.

For all these reasons, yesterday's meeting in Washington between the U.S. President and the Arab delegation has attracted the attention of international political circles in general and those interested in the Middle East in particular. It is believed that the coming developments in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Middle East problem depend greatly on the U.S. administration's stand. This administration can restrain the Israeli rulers' aggressive and adventurous thrust and their criminal designs, which will have an adverse impact on the region's future and the foreign interests in it.

The Arabs are not asking the impossible from the United States. They are requesting that Washington place pressure on the Israeli rulers to stop the dangerous deterioration in the region, which reflects on international security and peace and on international relations.

Everyone agrees that what Israel has done in Lebanon constitutes an exposed aggression, war crimes against humanity and a challenge to the UN Charter and resolutions. According to UN Resolutions 508 and 509, Israel must immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Lebanese terrotory. It is wrong to believe that the U.S. attempt to take advantage of the prevailing situation in Lebanon in order to impose the Camp David agreements and scheme may serve U.S.-Arab relations or force the Arabs to relinquish their unanimous decision rejecting the Camp David agreements.

Israel wants to drag the United States into minor and other side issues such as the transferrance of the Palestinian fighters from Beirut. The main cause remains the Palestinian people's national rights, namely their right to freedom, independence, self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state in Palestine.

He who really wants to help resolve the regional crisis in a comprehensive manner must first tackle the Palestinian Arab people's issue within the framework of the UN Charter and the legitimacy of human rights. No matter what the current circumstances are, one thing remains certain -- the Arab masses will neither surrender to the Israeli invasion nor yield to attempts to take advantage of this invasion.

BEGIN MEETS LEWIS; KIMCHE PESSIMISTIC ON PROGRESS

TA211938 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] This evening U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis met with Prime Minister Menahem Begin in the latter's Jerusalem office. The meeting lasted about an hour. The U.S. ambassador reported to the prime minister on his talk with President Reagan yesterday at the White House, with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Syria. Our political correspondent has learned that the ambassador's report did not include information indicating any chance of thawing the deadlock in the negotiations regarding the evacuation of the terrorists from Lebanon. Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram brings us up to date on the political picture, from our Tel Aviv studio.

[Ram -- live] In a pessimistic report, this afternoon Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche spoke to top officials of his ministry about the negotiations for the evacuation of the terrorists from Lebanon. Kimche, who had met with Habib in Beirut last Friday, 16 July, stressed that as long as there was a spark of hope, Israel would not abandon the path of political negotiations for the evacuation of the terrorists. However, it was becoming clearer and clearer, David Kimche said, that the terrorists had never intended to be evacuated at all. The more time passes, not only is there no progress, we are getting farther away from an arrangement. Concerning the talks that President Reagan held last night with the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia, which Ambassador Lewis reported to the prime minister this evening, as far as has been learned, so far there were no real points in the talks that could be grasped as an opening for negotiations. Despite all this, the Americans believe that a political agreement can be achieved.

This evening political circles mentioned the media reports about proposals according to which the terrorists would be evacuated in stages and, at the first stage, to northern Lebanon and the Al-Biqa' region. This idea is not acceptable to Israel. The main problem, political circles say, is not to where and how the terrorists will be evaucated; the question is whether the terrorists intend to be evacuated at all. And no answer to this question can be seen on the horizon.

Warning to Syria

TA220858 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jul 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Josef Harif, Ilan Kfir and Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin yesterday gave a firm warning to Syria, which supports the terrorists acting from the Syrian area in the eastern sector of Lebanon. Five IDF soldiers were killed in this sector yesterday.

Begin's warning -- a very firm one -- was passed on to U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis during a meeting at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem yesterday, attended by Defense Minister Sharon.

The meeting was slated to hear a report on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's talks with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers. The possibility of Syria giving refuge to the terrorists to be evacuated from Lebanon was discussed in that meeting.

In that context, the prime minister mentioned Syria's role in giving protection to the terrorists and disclosed to the ambassador that for some days now the terrorists in the Syrian-controlled sector have enjoyed protection, hitting the IDF systematically. The prime minister warned that the Syrian Government was undertaking a grave responsibility in extending aid to the terrorists -- either actively or by not preventing their action from that sector.

This morning the Israeli Government was going to discuss the crisis in west Beirut following the political and military developments.

The prime minister and the defense minister will brief the ministers on the results of President Reagan's meeting with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers and on the continued deadlock in the negotiations following that talk.

U.S. President Reagan yesterday appeal to Prime Minister Begin via Ambassador Lewis asking that Israel not take military action to evacuate the terrorists from west Beirut and that Israel enable him to exhaust the political approach as long as there are chances for this.

Begin asked that Reagan be informed that Israel may pay a dear price for waiting, but will nonetheless consider his appeal. The assessment in Jerusalem is that Israel will comply with Reagan's appeal and will enable him to continue his initiative for the achievement of a political settlement although the chances for this have been defined as very slim.

Senior political sources close to the negotiations told MA'ARIV yesterday that Reagan's initiative has in fact failed.

U.S. sources fear that Israel is increasingly despairing of the chance to achieve a political settlement and may act soon. These sources base their fear on the fact that the Israeli team in the meeting with Ambassador Lewis included, besides the prime minister and defense minister, Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan, Intelligence Chief Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi and Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, the defense minister's national security adviser.

Israel yesterday rejected outright the proposals by the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers for the gradual departure of the terrorists.

U.S. administration officials said yesterday that for the time being there is no plan for Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to visit Washington. It seems that in the coming days contacts will be held between the two countries to coordinate the visit. Envoy Habib recommended such a visit.

Against the background of Habib's recommendation, diplomatic observers assumed that the U.S. administration is interested in Shamir's visit in the coming weeks in order, among other things, to extend the time period for the political talks on resolving the Beirut crisis.

SHARON ADDRESSES UJA; 'SOURCES' ON U.S. TALKS

TA220757 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jul 82 p 1

[Report by David Landau and Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon pointedly distinguished yesterday between Beirut itself and the Palestinian camps to the south of the city.

"There are two parts of west Beirut," Sharon told a visiting UJA [United Jewish Appeal] delegation in Jerusalem. "One...the city of Beirut...then, the second part is the terrorist camps which are south of the city of Beirut...between the city and the airport."

Sharon charged the Western media with distortion because they "never say the Israelis are shelling the terrorist camps; they say we were shelling Beirut. But that's not Beirut."

Sharon's remarks were seen as significant in view of the Cabinet's feeling that the stalled diplomatic negotiations to get the PLO out of Beirut might need to be expedited by the use of limited non-diplomatic options.

The purpose would be to strengthen the credibility -- in the eyes of the PLO -- of the comprehensive military option. Israel would seek to convince the PLO that it would resort to the comprehensive military option as a last resort, if the diplomatic negotiations continue to produce no solution.

There was no word of breakthrough or substantial progress after a meeting last night between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. The envoy requested the meeting to report on the talks in Washington the day before between President Ronald Reagan and the visiting Syrian and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers.

But some Israeli sources advised against hasty conclusions. They said it was unfortunate that the Washington meeting had been built up -- mainly by the U.S. administration -- into a potential turning-point, for better or worse, in the flagging negotiations over Beirut. "Turning-points rarely come in one meeting," one Israeli source observed.

Another Israeli source said the Syrians were still refusing to take in the PLO fighters trapped in Beirut, and were also refusing to agree to withdraw eventually their own forces from eastern Lebanon (the Al-Biqa' Valley).

The Americans themselves are understood to be urging now that Israel regard the meeting in Washington as part of an ongoing diplomatic process which still holds out the prospect of a peaceable evacuation by the PLO from Beirut, and perhaps a long-term political settlement in Lebanon.

The two Arab ministers will be reporting back to their own governments this week, and there are to be further contacts between them and the U.S.

Israel, for its part, is still to decide whether to send its own foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, to Washington for talks with the President and the new secretary of state, George Shultz.

Shamir did not attend yesterday's Begin-Lewis meeting; the premier asked Defence Minister Sharon to join him.

A number of top IDF generals were seen at the prime minister's office -- apparently for consultations with Sharon.

Immediately after his talk with the U.S. ambassador, Begin addressed the UJA mission at the Knesset, vowing that Israel "would take care that all the terrorists leave Beirut and Lebanon...not one will be left, I assure you of that."

Begin said Israel had "not entered Beirut; we have hesitated. I admit it. To hesitate is human."

BEGIN ADDRESSES UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DELEGATION

TA211832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Report by David Essing -- live from the Knesset]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has been speaking to a special United Jewish Appeal [UJA] delegation from the United States, and this is what he had to say about the terrorists from west Beirut a few moments ago:

[Begin Begin recording] Now, ladies and gentlemen, so we didn't enter Beirut, and we hesitated. Yes, indeed, I am not ashamed to admit hesitations. It's human. But we will have to take care that all the terrorists leave Beirut and Lebanon. None of them will be left. I can assure you. Because this is the only guarantee that we shall have the peace not only in our time but also for generations to come. And they will leave. Very soon the fighting will be finished, and then perhaps the famous verse in the Book of Judges will be brought into realization: And there was peace in the land for 40 years. [Last sentence preceded by Hebrew version of English verse]

I don't envisage any war in the near future after we bring the fighting in Lebanon to an end. Therefore, we should look now behind the fighting already. I do hope that when a permanent government of Lebanon is formed, consisting of all the Lebanese groups -- we don't interfere, it's their problem, but we will rejoice in their unity -- then very soon we shall sign a peace treaty with Lebanon. That will be the second peace treaty with an Arab country that Israel signed, and then look at the map with your mind's eye. You will see Lebanon to the north, Israel to the middle, Egypt to the south -- we can cooperate together, build our countries together in cooperation. There can be a tourist package deal: Lebanon-Israel-Egypt; Egypt-Israel-Lebanon; vice versa. Won't you enjoy such a trip? Eh? [end recording]

The special UJA mission has pledged to raise an extra $200 million for the Jewish Agency. This is David Essing reporting from the Knesset.

On Peace With Jordan

TA221121 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 82 p 4

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Excerpt] "At the end of the fighting in Lebanon I will invite the Jordanian king for peace talks in Jerusalem or will offer to meet him in Switzerland," Prime Minister Begin said during a dinner given in the Knesset building on behalf of the U.S. United Jewish Appeal delegation.

The prime minister said he will propose to King Husayn a peace plan based on a "free confederation" with open bridges for Israel to the east and free use of the Haifa port for Jordan.

"We will talk peace with Jordan," the prime minister said. "I believe we will obtain peace and cooperation with this country. There will be peace with Egypt in the south, with Jordan in the east and with Lebanon in the north."

On the autonomy plan, the prime minister promised that the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria will receive the broadest possible autonomy one can receive," except on security issues. Later, Begin took the opportunity of aiming arrows at France by saying: "When President Mitterrand visited here he asked me why we do not agree to give the Palestinians a state. I asked President Mitterrand why he did not agree to give a state to the residents of the island of Corsica. After all, the freedom fighters in Corsica who are fighting against French rule do not want to reach Paris and do not want to liquidate France, unlike the PLO, which wants to annihilate Israel and reach Jerusalem.

CABINET HOLDS SPECIAL SESSION ON LEBANON 22 JULY

TA220910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] The Cabinet held a special session this morning in which the prime minister reported on his meeting last night with the U.S. ambassador to Israel. Ambassador Samuel Lewis briefed Mr Begin on President Reagan's talks with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers. Later, the ministers discussed this briefing.

SHAMIR RETURNS FROM 'SECRET' EUROPEAN TRIP

NC220727 Paris AFP in English 0714 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Jerusalem, July 22 (AFP) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir arrived back overnight from a 48-hour secret visit to Europe connected with the Lebanese crisis, authoritative sources disclosed here.

It was not known which country he visited. Observers said it was likely he discussed details of a possible international buffer force for Lebanon.

MODA'I ON MILITARY OPTION IN WEST BEIRUT

TA212034 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2025 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Beersheba, 21 Jul (ITIM) -- Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i said this evening that the Cabinet is determined to activate a military plan for the capture of Beirut, one that also takes into account the possibility that there would be door-to-door fighting involved as well, unless within a week or two some political arrangement is achieved that would expel the terrorists from west Beirut. He was speaking at an information rally in Beersheba.

Later the minister noted that the terrorist organizations in Beirut have been conducting a conspicuous policy of deliberate foot-dragging. He said this procrastination was aimed at reinforcing and fortifying their military infrastructure in Beirut. Moda'i emphasized that if there is no political arrangement that would make the terrorists leave Beirut, the government will not hesitate to utilize the military option.

'SENIOR FIGURE' ON U.S. POSITION ON PLO

TA211401 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1130 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] A person described as a senior figure, who appeared today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that recently there has been an erosion in the U.S. position regarding the PLO. At the committee session the assessment was made that there is no chance the terrorists will leave Beirut voluntarily. Our Knesset correspondent Arye Golan reports on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

[Golan -- live] Over the last year, the Knesset members were told, the United States has been reevaluating the PLO, and an erosion in this matter is evident on the part of the Americans. Regarding the besieged terrorists in Beirut, the estimation is that they will not be removed from there by political means. The terrorists are engaging in deception and are presenting different positions; in fact, even Syria does not support their removal. Another point: The besieged terrorists are casting their lot -- so it was said -- on the opposition in Israel. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres immediately sought to make a correction. Talk about the extraparliamentary opposition, he told the senior figure, not about the Alignment. The answer: These statements are being read here from documents, as the terrorists are making them -- they are talking about the opposition.

During the session, there were again exchanges between members of the coalition and opposition. Mordekhay Gur claimed that there is a disparity between the political and the military reports given to the committee. This is a very grave disparity, Mordekhay Gur claimed, continuing that it was foolish to stop tightening the ring around Beirut. Ehud Olmert attacked Gur: You have already taken all the positions, he lashed out; you have already been in favor of the siege and against it, and for and against the supply of water to west Beirut. Mordekhay Gur: The tightening of the ring should have been continued, and a limited military action in west Beirut should have been carried out.

At this point Yitzhaq Rabin interrupted: Let it not be understood from these statements that the Labor Party has begun to support the military option. We still support the political option.

In contrast, coalition member Dror Zeigerman urged exhausting the political option without setting a deadline. It is possible to remove the terrorists politically, he argued, while at the same time tightening the siege of Beirut. Avraham Melamed added: That is correct; we must lower our sights.

PERES ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, LEBANESE GOVERNMENT

TA211821 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1750 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Tel Aviv, 21 Jul (ITIM) -- Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said today that we must avoid excessive, unnecessary intervention in the process of establishing a Lebanese government in Beirut. Rather, we must only make sure that the new government is founded only on its own power. Speaking before members of the U.S. United Jewish Appeal delegation, Peres nonetheless noted that the Palestinian problem will feature most prominently in world as well as U.S. attention. This is expected to take place in the next few months, following the war. However, Israel should not wait for external pressure to come and should instead take its own initiative now.

In war, Peres said, there are winners and there are losers, but in negotiations both parties must compromise. Therefore, even though we won the war, we must work toward a compromise solution to the Palestinian problem, one which will be founded on Israel's security needs. What started out with courage must end with political wisdom. Such an Israeli initiative will regain for Israel its appropriate image.

Peres nevertheless negated negotiations with the PLO, saying the question is not with whom to talk but over what. With 'Arafat, only one subject will be on the agenda, and that would be the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, which is something which we reject firmly. The solution therefore is Jordanian-Palestinian, in the framework of which Jordan will conduct the affairs of the local inhabitants. The time for it is especially propitious now, since Husayn needs peace at least as much as Israel does, in view of his increasing isolation in the Arab world, when the PLO -- his archenemy -- is at a nadir. One cannot expect the PLO to change its position; therefore, the question of negotiations with it is similarly not at all topical. The alternative is Jordan, a majority of whose population is Palestinian.

Israel should not, Peres concluded, miss this opportunity to develop an initiative to find a real solution to the Palestinian problem without forsaking and endangering its own security needs.

LABOR LEADER ON SYRIAN INTEREST IN W. BEIRUT ATTACK

TA211017 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Jul 82 p 2

[Report by Jerusalem correspondent Tuviya Mendelson]

[Excerpt] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has said using the military option in west Beirut might lead to results opposite to those foreseen by the government if it proves true that the Syrians actually want Israel to militarily break into west Beirut.

Speaking with the DAVAR correspondent, Peres noted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had also told Portuguese Socialist leader Mario Soares that he does not want to receive the terrorists fomr west Beirut in his country.

Reiterating the Alignment's position against any military action, Peres said he shares the assessment that the Syrians want to force Israel to use the military option. Such an action would have a destructive impact on Israel's standing and image in world public opinion and, according to Peres, it would be compatible with Syrian's interests. Moreover, it seems that Al-Asad expects a military action to lead, if not to a total collapse of Israeli-U.S. relations, then at least to a significant deterioration.

MAIMON ON PALESTINIAN HOUSING PLANS IN LEBANON

TA220638 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jul 82 p 1

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] The Israel Defence Forces has a problem in southern Lebanon to find shelter before the winter for between 20,000 and 30,000 Palestine Arab refugees left homeless in the camps, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee was told yesterday.

This number represents about one half of the total refugee-camp population inside the Israeli lines, according to Brig Gen David Maimon, who is in charge of civilian aid to Lebanon.

Palestinians living outside the camps behind the Israeli lines, for whom the problem of shelter does not exist, account for another 40,000 or so, Maimon said.

The homeless are staying in schools and unfinished buildings, he said. The Defence Ministry will probably decide in a few days on housing plans for them.

One view, he said, advocated rebuilding the destroyed homes in the former refugee camps. Another view would spread the homeless among a large number of localities in Lebanon, Maimon said.

He said that the International Red Cross was gradually being given the names of PLO suspects detained by the IDF in order to inform their families.

He noted that the U.S. had already allocated $60 million through various agencies working in Lebanon. However, he complained, the Lebanese authorities were not cooperative in rehabilitation work for the Palestinians, since they did not want the Palestinians to stay in Lebanon.

Lebanese merchants had imported $1.8 million worth of goods from Israel in the past month, he reported.

Maimon said: "I hope we shall have the wisdom and the strength not to interfere in the pattern of inter-community relations in Lebanon. We have to treat all the communities equally."

Prof Menahem Milson, who heads the civil administration in Judaea and Samaria, said that some Arabs there now talked of amending the PLO's Palestine convention to exclude the liquidation-of-Israel clauses. However, they would keep the demand for a Palestinian "homeland," he said.

Brigadier General Yosef Lunz, the military commander of the Gaza District, told the committee that the dismissed mayor of the city, Rashad ash-Shawwa, was neither "representative nor moderate," as the critics of his dismissal had claimed.

EYTAN, CENSORS SAID WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES

TA220802 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jul 82 p 3

[Report by the Knesset correspondent]

[Text] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan and the military censors appear to be working at cross purposes.

For the past week the censor has been suppressing a report concerning two incidents not directly related to the Lebanese situation.

The only logical explanation for the suppression is that the publication of the report does not fit in with the claims of Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon that the Peace for Galilee Operation has protected Israel from further PLO harassment.

In the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Tuesday, Yosi Sarid (Alignment-Labour) asked Eytan what military (as opposed to non-military) reasons existed for suppressing the report.

Constitutionally speaking, the chief military censor derives his powers from the government, because the British mandate emergency regulations still in force made the censor responsible to the high commissioner, whose powers have been taken over by the government.

In law therefore, it is not the chief of staff who is the censor's superior, but the government, as represented by Sharon.

A few days ago, the censor suppressed a further incident in a different location.

SHARON QUESTIONED ON ARABIC PRESS CENSORSHIP

TA220800 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jul 82 p 2

[Text] Not everything published in Israeli newspapers is approved by the army censor for publication in the Arabic press of east Jerusalem, Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon said yesterday.

He was replying to a parliamentary question by Ya'ir Tzaban (Alignment-MAPAM), who noted that in June 1979, then-Deputy Defence Minister Mordekhay Tizpori had told the Knesset that the censor had a single set of criteria for both groups of newspapers.

Sharon said that in general the Arabic newspapers printed in east Jerusalem and the territories may reprint anything that has appeared in the Hebrew press. However, there was no ignoring the fact that these were designed for a different readership.

Accordingly, if the censor is convinced that publication might be harmful to state security or public order, he will not approve the reprinting, Sharon said.

He gave the following as examples of what might be regarded as harmful to state security: statements against Israel or favourable to the PLO, any expression of an intention to retrieve Haifa, Lod or Yafo, derogatory expressions with respect to Judaism or Zionism, and contempt of court.

PRESS ON REAGAN-ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION TALKS

TA211210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Jul 82

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV thinks that Washington is trying to create the impression that President Reagan's meeting with the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia was successful. Therefore, it was announced that new ideas were discussed in the meeting for breaking the deadlock in Beirut. The newspaper thinks that these ideas are not realistic and, all in all, they are designed to obtain more time from Israel.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT recalls that at the beginning of the week, international terrorism succeeded in attacking the president of the American University of Beirut, murdering nine British soldiers in London and throwing bombs in Paris. This gang of murderers, the newspaper says, is nourished by weapons and money from the PLO, and about 1,000 of its members were caught this month in the PLO's camps in Lebanon. And look how amazing it is: France, Britain and the rest of Europe are hurrying to save their potential murderers from our hands. It has emerged that he who accuses is willing to sell -- for greed for oil and business -- his mother and father. So says YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

U.S. HAS 'RARE OPPORTUNITY' IN MIDDLE EAST MEDIATION

TA201332 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jul 82 p 5

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Siege and the Suspension"]

[Text] The Israeli siege of west Beirut brought the Syrian foreign minister to Washington.

In the days of the former administration, when President Carter wanted to meet with President al-Asad he had to go all the way to Geneva because the Syrian president did not want to come to Washington. Now, however, at the end of an Israeli-Syrian confrontation, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is not going to Moscow but is looking for political help in the United States.

The most important U.S. diplomatic achievement in the Middle East after Camp David is, practically speaking, that all the region's countries now turn to Washington in search of political aid. All the countries, including the regular Soviet Union clients, now recognize that only the United States holds the key to resolving Middle East conflicts. The United States is the only place to turn when political means are needed after the military means supplied by the Soviet Union fall.

Washington is also beginning to see that despite all the worries, the United States came out on top in Lebanon.

Still, as in any society, there are those officials in Washington who are always scared, afraid of their own shadow, worried that the Arab world might threaten U.S. interests despite everything. However, the policymakers do know that the Arab need for U.S. mediation strengthens the U.S. political stand in the Middle East. Israel did not go out to war in Lebanon to strengthen U.S. political standing in the Middle East. This was not one of the aims of the war, but in retrospect the United States gained, and there are those in Washington who believe that the ouster of the terrorists from Beirut is a U.S. interest no less than it is an Israeli interest.

There are those who go even further. Among the bits of advice given to George Shultz upon entering his new post as secretary of state was one given by a respected American, one well acquainted with diplomatic ways.

He claimed that the United States should present Philip Habib's mission as a mission of mercy to rescue the terrorists from the siege and not as political negotiations. George Shultz was even advised to tell the Arab states that if they do not accept the negotiation suggestion for the ouster of the terrorists from Beirut, Philip Habib would immediately leave Beirut and return to Washington.

In other words, the United Snates should present Philip Habib's mission as a gesture of good will toward the Arabs because the Israeli interest is not to let the terrorists go to Syria but to totally destroy this terrorist organization and its headquarters in Beirut.

It is doubtful whether this opinion was acceptable to George Shultz. But it might come up soon unless Philip Habib succeeds in tying up all the ends in the Arab world toward a PLO retreat from Beirut.

This is the third time that the United States has helped save an Arab military force from an Israeli siege.

The first time was in January 1949 when the United States pressured Israel to free the Egyptian brigade besieged in the Falujah pocket, even before the cease-fire agreement was signed.

The second time occurred at the end of October 1973 when the United States pressured Israel to allow food and medical supplies to reach the 3d Army besieged along the Suez Canal.

The third time is now and this time it is not Egyptian soldiers but PLO terrorists who are besieged in west Beirut.

This time too the United States advised Israel to ease the siege, and to enable water and food supplies to get through. Although in his answer to President Reagan the prime minister quoted the historical precedents of civilian populations suffering from a siege, the proof was unconvincing and Israel agreed to allow water and food to be supplied to Beirut. The easing of the siege gave more breathing space to the terrorists in west Beirut. It even stretched the diplomatic negotiations. Once again the United States is presented as the one who is asked to give in for the sake of Israel, to make secret promises to the Arabs, while in actual fact the United States is the one doing the Arab states a favor by granting the 7,000 terrorists free passage with their personal arms.

It is clear from the statement made by the Syrian foreign minister in Washington that Syria intends to accept the terrorists but it would like to obtain sure, suitable U.S. political "compensation," apparently on Israel's account, so that the humiliation of the PLO surrender will not be obvious. Indeed, the U.S. administration timed the announcement of the suspension of the shipment of the 4,000 cluster bombs to coincide with the arrival in Washington of the Syrian foreign minister. Actually the announcement was already made a week ago to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and even leaked to the NEW YORK TIMES on Saturday, but there was someone who preferred that the official announcement be made only on the arrival of the Arab foreign ministers in Washington.

Instead of telling the Arab ministers that the United States is working on a gesture of good will toward the Arabs by working on extricating the 7,000 terrorists from the Israeli siege, the United States preferred to show to the Arab foreign ministers the beginning of the punitive system against Israel. If the Arab foreign ministers do hear such songs in Washington, if they do get the impression that the United States is not firm in its determination to oust all foreign armies from Lebanon, then not only will there be no agreement in west Beirut but Washington will also have lost one of its rare opportunities to strengthen its position in the Middle East and through it to bolster the peace process in the area.

The Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers came to Washington to make sure that the PLO retreat from west Beirut will not assume the semblance of a surrender to Israel.

They are asking for a "political gain" that will cover the humiliation of defeat in Beirut and this is actually the subject of the negotiations in Washington today.

If the United States is tempted and it continues to suspend delivery of the cluster bombs, this will mark its own defeat, because by so doing, it will drop the most important card for a settlement in the area. If the United States saves the "honor" of the PLO, which is the chief client of the Soviet Union, it will have to let Moscow take part along the rest of the way.

This will be Washington's loss.

JERUSALEM ARABIC COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN TRANSFER

JN211749 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 21 Jul 82

["Observation" by Salim 'Anbari]

[Text] Will the terrorists leave Beirut or not? This has been a controversial issue in all discussions on Lebanon and the issue of the besieged terrorists in Beirut. U.S. envoy Philip Habib continues to insist that they will leave. The terrorists themselves prepare statements for local consumption saying they will not leave. But in their official talks with Lebanese officials, the terrorists promised they will leave. The big question remains: Why won't they leave? We do not ask when they will leave, because the answer to the first question implies an answer to the second. The question is: Why won't they leave?

The official answer to this question is that no Arab state is ready to give them refuge. Anyone who is convinced of this geographic excuse is naive. To prove this it is enough to read Israel's proposal made through Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. Israel said that it was prepared to give refuge to the PLO members with certain conditions coupled with guarantees to safeguard them until the problem of transferring them to an Arab state is finally resolved. The only conditions set by Israel for granting refuge to the PLO members is that the refugee should state that he has renounced his PLO membership and that his hands are not stained with blood. In my opinion, Jordan, Egypt or Morocco would have put the same condition.

However, until now there is no indication that this generous Israeli offer has been accepted. This means that the problem is not a geographic one. It might have been a geographic problem 2 weeks ago, but now it has become a political problem. It seems that it will remain a political one until it is solved politically with U.S. help -- and this is what the PLO leaders want; or until Israel solves it militarily -- and this is the most detestable solution for Israel.

It is not only the PLO leaders who prefer a political solution to this problem but also all the Arab states though for various and different reasons. It is more correct to say that the Arab states want the problem to be a lever to lift the Palestinian problem and push it forward through U.S. recognition or semi-recognition of the PLO as a first step to finding a solution to the entire Palestinian problem. Then it would not be impossible for any Arab state to give shelter to the terrorists and end the Israeli siege of west Beirut. This may appear logical at first glance but in fact it is an attempt to complicate and divert attention from the main issue which demands immediate solution, namely, the issue of pulling the terrorists and their leadership out of Beirut and Lebanon as a whole. Without resolving this issue, no solution can be found for restoring sovereignty to Lebanon.

Without this, Israel will not be reassured about the safety of its borders, the issue which prompted it to launch its operation.

Israel is controlling the military situation in Lebanon. It is clamping a tight siege around the terrorist bases in west Beirut. Israel is certain of its superiority and ability to solve the problem by military means but has always preferred and still prefers a political solution to the problem. Israel has been and still is prepared to give the political solutions all means of success in order to avoid shedding more blood and prevent further destruction and ruin in Lebanon, which has been suffering from this strange and regrettable situation for a decade.

Nevertheless, this Israeli readiness does not mean allowing time and effort to be wasted on other issues than the problem which demands immediate solution, the issue of transferring the besieged terrorists in Beirut.

POST POLLS PUBLIC ON PEACE WITH JORDAN

TA200815 Jerusalem THE JERSUALEM POST in English 20 Jul 82 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Text] Tel Aviv -- More than half of the public considers that the war in Lebanon has made little difference for the prospects of peace with Jordan, with one third thinking that the chances have improved.

A little over half of the public is unwilling to make any territorial concessions in Judaea and Samaria, while more than one third are amenable to territorial compromise.

These are the findings of THE JERUSALEM POST poll conducted by the Moi'in Ezrahi Research Institute at the end of June and in early July among a sampling of 1,236 adults. Institute Director Dr Sara Shemer noted the underrepresentation of men aged 18-30.

Asked "how do you think the operation in Lebanon will affect the prospects of peace with Jordan?" the replies were: enhance -- 30.1 percent, diminish -- 9.2 percent, no change -- 57.3 percent, undecided -- 3.4 percent.

Another question was asked to ascertain the public's attitude towards making territorial concessions in Judaea and Samaria in return for peace with Jordan. The results were compared to a similar poll held before the war in May.

	June	May
No concessions	53.1	58.3
Concessions in certain areas	35.9	29.3
All of Judaea and Samaria except for east Jerusalem	7.4	7.3
All of Judaea and Samaria including east Jerusalem	1.6	1.9
Undecided	2.0	3.2

Shemer made special note of the decrease in the percentage of intransigents on the matter of territorial concessions and the increase of those willing to make at least some concessions.

EGYPT EASES REQUIREMENTS FOR TABAH CROSSING

TA211214 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0555 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] The Egyptian Tourism Ministry has informed the Israeli Tourism Ministry representative in Cairo, Morris (Casuto), that it is rescinding the order according to which every Israeli entering the Sinai through the border crossing at Tabah must purchase 150 Egyptian pounds. This applies to Israelis and foreigners alike. Another decision announced by the Egyptians is that the vehicle fees imposed on private Israeli vehicles, which reached 180 Egyptian pounds, have been reduced to 30 Egyptian pounds for cars crossing the border at Tabah.

ALGERIA

'SURPRISE' EXPRESSED OVER PALESTINIAN PROPOSAL

LD212354 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Following a meeting held with the chief of the U.S. White House, a statement attributed to Arab League envoys says one of the proposals indicates that Algeria together with another Arab country might agree to receive the Palestinian Resistance now in Beirut.

Algeria, which was taken by surprise by such claims, would like to recall its permanent position, namely, that the problem does not lie in moving the Resistance from one Arab country to another Arab country but in tackling more thoroughly the heart of the central issue of the Middle East problem, namely, the Palestinian homeland and state.

IBRAHIMI RECEIVES U.S., SOVIET AMBASSADORS

LD211932 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, at the ministry today received the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Algiers.

During his talks with the U.S. ambassador, they touched on the progress of the comprehensive negotiations. The foreign minister asked the ambassador to provide him with clarifications concerning the current U.S. attitude in this regard.

The minister also talked to the two ambassadors about the grave situation in Lebanon where the Israeli forces of aggression daily intensify their siege of Beirut, threatening its inhabitants with annihilation.

Algeria, which spares no effort to provide political and material support for the Palestinian Resistance and the fraternal Lebanese people, is very concerned about the problem of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the attempts to liquidate the Palestinian Resistance.

A special responsibility falls on the shoulders of the permanent members of the Security Council to guarantee respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and to safeguard international peace and security.

LIBYA

IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER DEPARTS 21 JULY

LD211344 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Brother Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning. Staff Maj Gen 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud headed the delegation that saw him off at Tripoli International Airport. Brother members of the general people's committee, a number of officers of the armed forces and Iran's ambassador to the Jamahiriyah also saw him off.

Brother Musavi declared that the talks during his brief visit to the Jamahiriyah dealt with current conditions in the Arab region, especially the barbaric Zionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and that the views of the Jamahiriyah and Iran on the aggression are the same, especially as regards repelling the attack and foiling all imperialist and reactionary plots against the Arab and Islamic nations.

Brother Musavi, in a statement to a JANA correspondent on his departure from Tripoli International Airport, affirmed the stand of the Great al-Fatih Revolution and the Islamic revolution in Iran in the face of all imperialist and Zionist plots aimed at the freedom of the Arab and Islamic nations and of all the helpless peoples struggling for their freedom and salvation from imperialist and Zionist hegemony. In his statement, he emphasized the need for the unity of the Islamic nation in the face of the plans and plots hatched by imperialism, Zionism and reaction and for a unified action plan to confront these plots.

At the end of his statement, he praised the results of his talks in the Jamahiriyah. He also extended greetings to the Libyan Arab people and the leadership of their historic revolution on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr.

OPPOSITIONIST ON STRUGGLE AGAINST AL-QADHDHAFI

PM220721 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 7 Jul 82 pp 1, 4

[Interview with 'Abd al-Hamid Bakkush, secretary general of the Libyan Liberation Organization, by Mustapha Zehimi]

[Text] Opposition to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's regime is being organized. 'Abd al-Hamid Bakkush, secretary general of the Libyan Liberation Organization, recently showed us the political manifesto that governs its activities.

Bakkush is a former Libyan prime minister, ambassador to Paris and high official in Libya, which he left in 1977. His organization's chairman is Bashir ar-Rabiti and its deputy chairman is Yusuf Abu Ruwayis.

Many people oppose the Al-Qadhdhafi regime but there has been no organized opposition. Referring to this, 'Abd al-Hamid Bakkush first stated that the platform of the new organization is: "Revolution for liberty, justice and fraternity." He believes the objectives defined in that platform are likely to interest everyone being organized whether in Libya or abroad with a view to overthrowing Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's present regime which is based on repression, murder, terror and personal power.

He further emphasized that the Libyan people are now subjected to a most bloody oppression.

Bakkush says he believes the regime represents a real plot against the Libyan people and calls on all patriots to rise, organize themselves and join the ranks of the Libyan Liberation Organization to end these dark years in his country's history. He also believes the present Tripoli regime has remained in power only because of the active support received from certain non-African powers that have infiltrated the state apparatus and the country's security services.

The appeal addressed to Libyan patriots is not only consistent with patriotic requirements but also shows a desire to restore the Libyan citizen's dignity. 'Abd al-Hamid Bakkush explained in this connection that even though his organization is primarily political, it will have no future option but to wage a military struggle against the Tripoli regime.

Figures have been given with respect to waste in the Libyan economy, a lack of a real national budget, foreign debts and squandering of public resources. They pinpoint the regime's failure.

However, there is worse than that. 'Abd al-Hamid Bakkush emphasizes the fact that the regime has been transformed into an agency of powers alien to Africa, that have established throughout our continent a network of relays and "training" centers that are, in fact, bridgeheads for penetration and subversion. The ramifications of these networks are known in some places. They serve hegemonist ideologies.

While aiming to overthrow the present Libyan regime, the Libyan Liberation Organization does not intend to confine its efforts to that objective. It also champions a new type of society based on the principles of democracy, freedom and justice.

It claims to be a vanguard organization whose members are thinking patriots, which appeals to the Libyan people who are stifled and repressed by the present regime. "We are organizing resistance against that oppressive regime," 'Abd al-Hamid Bakkush concluded.

MAURITANIA

HAYDALA RECEIVES POLISARIO SPECIAL ENVOY

AB211708 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, received this morning in audience the special envoy from the Western Sahara, who arrived last night.

At the end of the audience, Mohamed Abd al-Fattah, the special envoy of the secretary general of the Polisario, said he brought a personal message from the secretary general addressed to Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. Talks during this meeting dealt with questions relating to the subregion and the holding of the upcoming OAU summit in Tripoli, the Saharan envoy stated.

MOROCCO

MAP REPORTS VICTORIES OVER 'MERCENARY GANGS'

LD211250 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Rabat, 21 Jul (MAP) -- While fortifying the defense line they are building in the Western Sahara, the Moroccan Royal Forces have clashed several times with the mercenary gangs east of Smara and south of Draa Afrafir. In all these clashes, the Royal Armed Forces inflicted heavy human and material losses on the mercenary gangs, forcing them to flee from the battlefield.

On 13 July, the Royal Armed Forces forced the mercenaries to flee and leave behind four Toyota vehicles, two Landrovers, double-barreled heavy guns of various calibers and a machinegun. On 15 July in the same area, units of the Royal Armed Forces forced the mercenary gangs to retreat from the battlefield. They left 60 dead, 14 destroyed vehicles and 2 katyushas. None of our soldiers was hurt.

On 19 July, south of Draf Afrafir, the Royal Armed Forces clashed with a battallion of mercenaries transported in 100 vehicles. The insurgents were forced to flee south, leaving behind a number of bodies, 16 damaged vehicles, 5 kalashnikovs, a 12.7-mm machinegun and a large quantity of ammunition. Five soldiers were martyred in the ranks of the Royal Armed Forces and nine were injured.

The Moroccan Ministry of Information, Youth and Sports said that is doing everything possible to help the national and international press visit the region and see first hand the real situation.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI ADDRESSES CITIZENS ON 'ID

JN211140 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jul (SUNA) -- In an address to the citizens, President Numayri congratulated the Sudanese people and the Arab and Islamic nation on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr.

He said this occasion provides a good opportunity to revive hopes in man's ability to build a good, united and cohesive society. He added that the fragmentation and discord engulfing the Arab Islamic nation have encouraged the enemy to become more arrogant and boastful. President Numayri pointed out that while the Islamic nation is celebrating this blessed occasion, thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese are facing death and destruction with no support from their brothers except slogans and statements. He stressed that the Islamic leaders and peoples should act only according to God's book and the Prophet's teachings. In this way, the Arab and Islamic nation will not be lost; it will be united and strong.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENT CANCELS 'ID AL-FITR CEREMONIES

LD211326 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Communique issued by the presidency of the Republic of Tunisia -- date not given]

[Text] Given the preoccupation of the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, with the continuing deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, the persistence of the savage Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the resulting killings, evictions and destruction; in solidarity with the splendid Palestinian Resistance in these difficult circumstnaces; and in tribute to the souls of the martyrs who have fallen for the sake of freedom and dignity, his excellency has decided to cancel all official ceremonies to mark the end of Ramadan and Republic Day. His Excellency also decided to cancel the ceremonies in Susah and Mahdia.

PRIME MINISTER MZALI ON LEBANON NEGOTIATIONS

JN211844 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by correspondent Nabil Darwish -- date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, we would like to congratulate you on the occasion of the happy 'Id al-Fitr. We would like you, please, to brief us on the Tunisian mediation between the United States and the Palestinians.

[Answer] First of all, let me thank you and extend sincere greetings to the listeners through you, particularly to our militant brothers in Beirut and inside the occupied land. I convey to them best wishes of blessings and hopes for prosperity on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. As for your question, what I can now say is that upon the instructions of President Habib Bourguiba I tried, during my official visit [to the United States] in April, to make U.S. officials aware of the factors of the just Palestinian cause and to achieve a U.S. recognition of the PLO, the sole legitimate representaitve of the Palestinians, led by the great struggler Yasir 'Arafat. This took place on the basis of previous contacts with Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi in his capacity as an adviser to Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. I desperately defended this stand, stressing that negotiations with the PLO are the sole feasible way of achieving a just settlement to the Middle East cause.

[Question] It seems, Mr Prime Minister, that intensive Tunisian mediation efforts have been going on for the past 6 months.

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] Naturally, you have outlined the main principles of the Tunisian policy regarding the Palestinian cause. What concerns us here is the Americans' opinion and requests.

[Answer] The Americans say this would be possible after two conditions are met: First, the issuing of a statement by the number one man or a senior PLO official admitting Israel's right to exist provided the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to have a state and a homeland are recognized.

[Question] This first condition has been fulfilled following 'Isam as-Sartawi's recent statements at the international relations institute in Paris.

[Answer] It seems so. The second condition is the recognition of all the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council.

[Question] Yet there are certain resolutions such as UN Resolution 242, as you know, that do not recognize the Palestinians as a people but as refugees. How can this problem be resolved?

[Answer] This passage [in UN Resolution 242] is overtaken by events because there are many agreements and resolutions concerning the Palestinian people.

[Question] Are the Americans convinced of what you told them in this regard?

[Answer] I told them this in addition to other positive points related to the issue. I believe these matters are in the process of coming to fruition.

[Question] At a time when Beirut is being besieged by the Israeli forces and when two Arab foreign ministers are visiting the United States, and naturally you are coordinating with them, are you optimistic regarding a possible U.S. answer regarding recognizing the PLO?

[Answer] I am not pessimistic. However, I am not completely optimistic because there are several considerations and pressures. The Arabs would do better to focus their efforts on achieving recognition of the PLO instead of wasting much time on reaching formulas for the Palestinians' evacuation from Beirut. It would be better if we focus all our efforts on all levels on the political settlement.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, you are well aware that joint Arab action at this juncture is a very difficult process. This is proved by the failure of Tunisian President Bourguiba's call to convene an Aaab summit in Al-Munastir.

[Answer] President Bourguiba made many endeavors and his call for an Arab summit is an endeavor, an attempt by him. Unfortunately, some states did not answer his call and some others made conditions that were difficult to meet. We also endeavor in the foreign ministers conference to make resolute decisions.

[Question] The time element is important. You are aware that the Palestinians are now besieged and that time is very important. Are you optimistic about Arab moves concerning this?

[Answer] I am proud and optimistic about Palestinian steadfastness because, for approximately 2 months, the Palestinians have proved to the world and introduced a new dimension to the Middle East problem [sentence incomplete]. Now this problem is not that of Israeli and Arab armies and states but rather a problem of confrontation between Israel and a steadfast Palestinian people who know how to die in their attempts to impose upon the world their existence and their right to a state and a homeland. Therefore, the source of my optimism is Palestinian steadfastness. Of course, we are at their side and they have our sentiments, heartfelt feelings and more.

[Question] As we all know, Tunisia is one of the Arab states that has a special position in the West and the United States. This was proved during your recent visit to the United States which was very important as you have just told us. Tunis is also the Arab League headquarters where Arab diplomatic ideas begin and are sometimes transformed into action. As a result of all these contacts, how do you view the future of the Lebanese and Palestinian causes?

[Answer] The Lebanese problem cannot be resolved unless the Palestinian problem is resolved. There is no doubt about this. However, I think Palestinian steadfastness has changed the concepts and world public opinion in the region, the West and even in Israel itself. I am therefore optimistic. What I fear is a mad, irresponsible Israeli action in the form of a final step, the criminal act of storming Beirut. I think this is very difficult to do and if it happens, God forbid, it would cost Israel a great price and would help the Palestinian cause. It is impossible to abort a revolution that is launched by young men and people who know how to die for their experience.

[Question] Allow me to go back with you to the issue of U.S.-Palestinian mediation efforts. Do you expect a tangible, quick U.S. response?

[Answer] I think if the PLO issues a statement we would embarrass the United States more and would prevent further hesitancy in its stand.

[Question] What should the PLO statement be? What do you want the PLO statement to be?

[Answer] The PLO should confirm Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi's statement.

[Question] On mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] In your opinion, would the issuance of such a PLO statement be met with immediate U.S. recognition and the beginning of U.S.-Palestinian negotiations?

[Answer] I do not say immediate, but it would facilitate this because the Americans would have no excuse.

[Question] Would U.S. recognition -- and this is the main issue -- lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Answer] It would facilitate a political solution and direct negotiations. I think it would also speed a solution, of course.

[Question] Thank you, Your Excellency.

ETHIOPIA

AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION BRIEFED ON FOREIGN POLICY

EA212212 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Excerpt] An Australian parliamentary delegation was briefed this afternoon on the foreign policy, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of socialist Ethiopia, which pursues the policy of peaceful coexistence.

Comrade Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, briefed Harold William Young, president of the Australian Senate, and his delegation on Ethiopia's foreign policy, its relations with neighboring countries, the repeated invasions of Ethiopia by the Somali regime, which is based on an expansionist objective, and on the prevailing situation in Ethiopia and Africa, at a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry's conference hall.

Briefing the delegation, Comrade Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis pointed out that relations and cooperation between Australia and Ethiopia have been increasing, explaining that the efforts directed toward this and the assistance Australia has extended to Ethiopia at different times have been given great importance.

The comrade minister went on to explain at length the victories the Ethiopian people have scored in the struggle to create a new society and, on the other hand, the offenses committed by the reationary Mogadishu regime in violating Ethiopia's border, especially the present acts of Barre in view of his long-standing expansionist goals.

ABO LIBERATION FRONT CLAIMS SUCCESSES IN BALE

EA211844 Mogadishu International Service in Amharic 1330 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] An Abo Liberation Front spokesman has disclosed that fierce fighting between the front and Abyssinian troops occurred on 26 June in (Melcaremala), in Bale administrative region. In this fighting, 26 Abyssinian troops were killed, large numbers were wounded and 14 AK rifles and ammunition were captured.

A clash took place on 28 June at a place called (Harojije), in Bale administrative region, between the Abo Liberation Front and invading Abyssinian troops. In the fighting, 11 Abyssinian troops were killed and others were wounded. The spokesman went on to say that the liberation front's losses were minimal and that the fighters safely returned to their base.

A report from the Sidama Liberation Movement reveals that fierce fighting took place on 26 June between the movement's fighters and the fascist colonial Addis Ababa troops in the town of Ciabi, in Bayisa district. In the fighting, 35 of the fascist troops were killed, many were wounded and 14 AK automatic rifles were seized, the spokesman explained.

In addition, in a clash on 28 June between fighters of the Sidama Liberation Movement and the Addis Ababa troops in (?Osbaleh) in Bayisa district, 20 invading troops were killed and large numbers were wounded. The news report further reveals that the fascist troops had set out from five military bases, namely, (Daye), (Bensa), (Keba), (Hache) and (Tebena Birsa) and that they were defeated by the liberation forces.

SOMALIA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES REPORTS ON FIGHTING

Balumbale Clashes

EA211626 Mogadishu International Service in Amharic 1330 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] A statement issued by the Defense Ministry reports that heavy fighting took place last Sunday between the invading Abyssinian troops and Somalia's troops at a place called Balumbale in Ghel Gudut region. The losses inflicted on the fascist Abyssinian troops were: Sixty Abyssinian troops were killed and large numbers were wounded. Seven armored personnel carriers and two tanks were destroyed.

The statement issued by the Somali Democratic Republic Defense Ministry added that in the fighting a large number of troops, a military officer, weapons and trucks were captured.

The report goes on to explain that the day before yesterday four Abyssinian MiG's attacked Rocca Littorio, the capital of Mudugh, but the object of their invasion was foiled by Somalia's antiaircraft (?missiles).

20 July Air Attack

EA212104 Mogadishu International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The Somali Defense Ministry reports that at 1500 yesterday, aircraft of the [word indistinct] Abyssinian regime carried out a flagrant, aggressive attack against (Iet) district in Bocol region of the Somali Democratic Republic. The report added that the air defense forces of the Somali Army (?bravely) confronted this attack and prevented the raiding aircraft from inflicting any losses in those areas.

Other reports say foreign and Somali correspondents yesterday morning visited Bur Tinle village, 20 km west of Ferfer. It is worth mentioning that the (?collapsing) Abyssinian forces recently launched a savage attack against this village.

Correspondent (Ahmed Abdullahi Guled) from the Somali news agency, SONNA, who was among the correspondents who visited Bur Tinle, says the correspondents saw the bodies of 60 Abyssinian soldiers who had been killed during their aggressive raid on the village. He also saw the Abyssinian arms captured by Somali forces, which they finally destroyed.

An officer from the armed forces stationed in Bur Tinle pointed out that the Abyssinian forces planned to capture this strategic spot [words indistinct] but they suffered severe defeats [words indistinct].

RADIO KULMIS SAYS DFSS NEAR REGIONAL CAPITALS

EA211934 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Reports reaching us from various sections of the liberation forces of the Democratic Front fot the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] say they are fully in control of the towns and villages recently liberated from Siad Barre's regime and the front's forces are closing in on the regional capitals of Mudugh, Ghel Gudut, Hiran and Nogal regions, namely, Galcaio, Dusa Mareb, Belet Uen and Gherrowe.

The reports add that fighting is raging in areas around the highway linking [northern and southern] Somalia. The reports say the general masses and the DFSS are launching combined attacks on the forces loyal to Mohamed Siad Barre.

ENVOY WELCOMES 'ANY OFFER' OF WAR MEDIATION

NC211922 Paris AFP in English 1910 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Paris, July 21 (AFP) -- The Somali Embassy's charge d'affairs here today accused the Soviet Union, Ethiopia and Libya of attempting to divide his country and crush the regime in Mogadishu with the current fighting in the Horn of Africa.

Their purpose was to "extend Soviet influence to all the countries of the Red Sea, near the Middle East", Ahmed Gure told a news conference here.

Mr Gure said Somalia would favorably receive any offer of mediation in the fighting, which broke out early this month in Somalia in regions bordering Ethiopia.

It would notably welcome such an offer from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). A meeting of OAU ministers to prepare the organisation's annual summit in Tripoli next month is due to open in the Libyan capital Monday.

"We would like a political solution, because we do not want to settle this war militarily if we can avoid it," Mr Gure said, indicating that the government in Mogadishu had sought the help of the United States as well as nations in Europe and the Third World.

The diplomat added that the war was not an internal affair as the Ethiopian Government has implied, but a "genuine war of heavy armament all along the Somali-Ethiopian border".

But he acknowledged that a "very small" number of Somalis were cooperating with the authorities in Addis Ababa to overthrow the government of President Mohamed Siad Barre.

The charge d'affairs said Somalia's border villages were being bombarded "without discrimination" by long-range Ethiopian artillery and that the Somali Armed Forces had shot down several Ethiopian MiG-21, MiG-23 jets. Mr Gure also said that senior Ethiopian officers had been taken prisoner and would face trial.

Answering questions, the diplomat said the Somali Government was still following socialist principles, but that it had left the Soviet camp because this no longer served Somali interests. "Our interests and those of the USSR have become opposed," he said. He also said that the congress of Somalia's sole political party, initially scheduled for July, had been postponed to next month because of Ramadan and not for political reasons.

CHAD

CDR EXPLAINS ACYL DEATH, NAMES NEW LEADER

AB211128 Paris AFP in French 1015 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Jul (AFP) -- Acheick ibn Oumar, former defense minister in the last government of Goukouni Oueddei and vice president of the Democratic Revolutionary Committee [CDR] will take over the chairmanship of the movement following the death of its leader Acyl Ahmat, reports a communique broadcast over Radio Moundou and monitored in Ndjamena.

A CDR spokesman confirmed the circumstances leading to the death of the former Chadian foreign minister. According to Radio Moundou, he was killed on Monday at 1830 in Lai, southern Chad "in tragic circumstances" while leaving the aircraft that had just brought him to Lai. Acyl was "sharply struck by the aircraft's propellers" while the engines were still running, the spokesman specified. The former foreign minister of the Transitional National Union Goverment of Chad [GUNT] died in the presence of his soldiers who had come to welcome him at the airport, the spokesman stated.

In its communique, the CDR called on its soldiers to be vigilant under the leadership of their new head, to "continue with the efforts for peace in Chad" undertaken by Acyl.

According to informed sources Acyl Ahmat was going to Moundou to meet Col Abdel Kader Kamougue Wadal to discuss prospects of national reconciliation.

Colonel Kamougue, leader of the Chadian Armed Forces, on hearing the news of Acyl's death on Tuesday, sent a message of condolence to the CDR leaders. Colonel Kamougue said he was deeply touched by the "tragic death" of Acyl Ahmat whom he described as "a very old friend." The chairman of the Permanent Committee of the South praised the "efforts " made "by the former minister for the national reconciliation of Chadians."

Meanwhile, there has been no official reaction from Ndjamena, where the general public is still unaware of the Acyl's death.

CONGO

PRESIDENT URGES HARD WORK, DEPLORES SABOTAGE

AB211641 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] While inaugurating work on a 310-km trunk road at Ouesso (northern Congo) yesterday, Congolese President Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso called for vigilance and hard work.

Alluding to recent acts of sabotage carried out at the "Maya Maya" International Airport in Brazzaville on Sunday, the Congolese president said: "Everyone should mobilize in the search for the counterrevolutionaries, assassins and criminals. The intention of the counterrevolutionaries today is to create discontent among the people and to make the execution of the first 5-year development plan a failure."

Work on this trunk road is estimated to cost 35 billion CFA francs (FR700 million) and is being financed by the Congo. In the same area on Tuesday, the head of state laid the cornerstone for the construction of a new airport.

ZAIRE

MINISTRY OFFICIAL SUSPENDED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

AB210930 Paris AFP in French 0814 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 21 Jul (AFP) -- Kabatu-Suila Betu, director of administration at the Zairian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with the rank of ambassador, was suspended from his duties and brought to justice on Tuesday, a communique published in Kinshasa announced.

According to the ministry's communique, this measure was taken following an order by the minister to probe the adminstrative section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The probe led to the discovery of the embezzlement of 5 million Belgian francs by this civil servant.

The ministry stresses that the embezzlement took place at a time when the government made 5 million Belgian francs available to the ministry for the payment of arrears in salaries of civil servants called back to Kinshasa following the 9 June 1981 MPR Central Committee decision calling on the government to reduce the staffs of diplomatic missions for economic reasons.

NEW ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL APPOINTED

AB141310 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 14 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Israel and Zaire are reestablishing relations, and their friendship is now sealed. The name of the new Zairian ambassador to Israel, disclosed by a presidential ordinance issued last Monday, is Mbuze Nsomi Lebwanabi [words indistinct] since the reestablishment of relations between Kinshasa and Tel Aviv. He will now have to ensure that the flame of friendship between Zaire and Israel is kept alive and is never again extinguished. Ambassador Mbuze Nsomi Lebwanabi is an intellectual, a technocrat and now, one may add, a diplomat.

GAMBIA

MINISTRY: NO REPRESENTATION AT TRIPOLI SUMMIT

AB201505 Paris AFP in French 1404 GMT 20 Jul 82

[Text] Banjul, 20 Jul (AFP) -- Gambia will not be represented at the OAU summit in Tripoli next month, according to a statement issued on Tuesday by the Gambian Foreign Ministry.

The statement points out that this decision was made "in view of the prevailing crisis within the organization, following the SDAR's admission."

Gambia considers the SDAR admission a "violation of the resolution of the 18th summit" that set up an ad hoc commission on the Western Sahara. It will therefore not take part, at any level, in the 19th summit in Tripoli. The ad hoc committee, the Gambian statement pointed out, is the only competent body to settle this issue.

Gambia believes "the SDAR admission jeopardizes chances for a political settlement of the issue and undermines unity and solidarity among African states." It refuses to subscribe to "any violation of the fundamental principles of the OAU," the statement concluded.

It will be recalled that Senegal, which with Gambia forms the Senegambia Confederation, has on several occasions said it will not take part in the Tripoli meeting if the SDAR is represented.

GHANA

AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA APPOINTED; RAWLINGS COMMENTS

AB220745 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] Col Jeff Asmah, commander of the agricultural task force, has been appointed Ghana's ambassador to Libya. According to a Ghana News Agency report, the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, presented letters of commission to Colonel Asmah at a ceremony at Gonda Barracks last night. The chairman asked the new ambassador to continue to foster and maintain the already existing cordial relations between Ghana and Libya. He told Colonel Asmah to make available to Ghanaians whatever could be learned from the Libyans.

In reply, Colonel Asmah said he saw his appointment as a big challenge and pledged to live up to expectations.

PNDC ISSUES LAWS ESTABLISHING SPECIAL TRIBUNALS

AB212001 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has promulgated two laws regulating the operations of public and special military tribunals which are to be set up. With regard to the law on public tribunals, a board will be established with responsibility for their administration.

Members of the board are eligible to sit on the tribunals as well as other members of the public appointed by the PNDC. Membership of the tribunals will be made up of at least three and not more than five persons selected by the board.

The tribunals may be located at such places as the council may determine. They will deal with offenses arising out of reports of committees of inquiry as well as other criminal offenses referred to in the law. In particular, they will have jurisdiction to try any person or group of persons who, while holding high office of state or any public office in Ghana, corruptly or deliberately abused the office for private profit or benefit or as well as collaboration with such persons. Any person or group of persons who acted in breach of stututes or laws, thereby causing financial loss to the state or its security or causing damage to welfare of Ghanaians, are also triable under the law.

Other offenses include the incitement or procuring of any person to invade Ghana with armed forces and preparation to procure by force any alteration of the revolutionary path of the people, the creation, through false information about the government of disaffection thereby lessening the effectiveness of its acts, programs and policies assigned to improve the welfare of the people.

It is also provided that in the case of an offense of corruption, a person who unlawfully gives money or confers the benefit or advantage is guilty too of the offense, and in the case where goods are sold above the maximum price prescribed by law, the purchaser is also deemed guilty of an offense.

The proceedings of the tribunal are to be generally held in public and accused persons are given the right to engage counsel of their choice and the opportunity to cross-examine prosecution withnesses. The tribunal will receive all the relevant evidence and proof or disproof of the charge and is to be guided in all its proceedings and decisions by the rules of natural justice.

A special public prosecutor and assistant public prosecutors are to be appointed by the PDC to institute proceedings before the tribunals. Among the penalties for offenses is death for such offenses as may be specified in writing by the council or where the tribunal is satisfied in writing by the council or where the tribunal is satisfied that every grave circumstance made in such a penalty has been revealed. Terms of imprisonment as well as terms of communal manual labor of such nature and for such time as the tribunal may determine are also among the penalties. No court or other tribunal has power to entertain any action or proceedings questioning any decision, judgment or order of the tribunal set up under the law. Provisions are made for the trial, despite reasonable notice given either personally or publicly by way of announcements on the national radio, newspaper, publications or other mode of mass communication.

The law on special military tribunal provides for the trial of a member of the armed forces who assaults or molests any person or unlawfully arrests any person. Civilians may also be tried by the military tribunal for engaging or encouraging military personnel for such unlawful arrests or using a member of the armed forces for any unauthorized purpose.

Civilians who parade as members of the armed forces whether in uniform or not are also triable under the law.

PROFESSIONALS ASK UNITY GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS

AB211840 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The association of recognized professional bodies has declared its own week of mourning beginning today for the three high court judges kidnapped and killed on or about the end of last month.

According to the association, at the end of their week of mourning, that is, on 28 July, members of the association will hold a memorial service in Accra and lay wreaths on the tombs of the judges.

In a press statement announcing this program, the association welcomed the appointment of a committee to inquire into the tragedy but called for the taking of certain other measures. These include the publication of a full list of persons in detention, the restoration of what the association calls the command structure of the army, an end to the curfew and reducing the carrying of weapons to the minimum.

Others are that all shades of opinions be allowed free expression on the radio, television and in the national dailies and that the situation whereby regional secretaries make their own laws and enforce them should be ended; that the allowed seizure of private cars for operational use should stop.

The professional bodies also call for an end to the fixing of very low prices for farm products. They also want an end to what they call the campaign of hate which they say is setting the rich against the poor in society, thus making achievement a national crime.

The association wants the crooks and politicians who went into self-exile in order to escape the people's justice to be allowed to come back. Finally, the professional bodies repeated their call first made last January for the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] as soon as arrangement can be made to hand over to what they call a government of national unity composed of all shades of opinion, including identifiable groups, presumably among them the professionals themselves, to prepare the country for an elected government by September next year.

Correspondents note that the professionals' insistence on representation for so-called identifiable groups will only result in the elitist government dominated by the powerful minority rich with a minimum voice for the downtrodden majority. In this connection, it is recalled that in all past constituent assemblies, there were just a handful of representatives of the TUC [Trade Union Congress] which was the organ for millions of workers while organizations representing a few hundred people got more seats.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI SENDS MESSAGE TO ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT

AB211045 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria has sent an urgent message to President Canan Banana of Zimbabwe. The message was delivered to President Banana by the Nigerian high commissioner to Zimbabwe, Michael (Tinohi). Details of the message were not given, but sources to the News Agency of Nigeria correspondent in Harare says that it concerns the forthcoming OAU summit in Tripoli, Libya next month. A Voice of Negeria political correspondent in Harare said that President Shagari's message was one of a high level diplomatic initiative being made by Nigeria to save the summit from being paralyzed by boycott.

Morocco, which (?lays) claims to Western Sahara, and a number of other OAU member states has threatened to boycott the summit over the last February admission of the SDAR to the OAU. Zimbabwe is among the 26 countries that have recognized the SDAR as a sovereign state and backed its admission to the OAU.

ANGOLA

DOS SANTOS TALKS WITH VERNON WALTERS 21 JULY

AB211230 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, this morning held discussions with Gen Vernon Walters, U.S. roving ambassador, who arrived in the Angolan capital yesterday.

Nothing was disclosed about the discussions. However, it is believed they were on the Namibian situation or very likely on the establishment of relations between Angola and the United States. It is recalled that Washington uses as a condition for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of Angola, the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which is an unacceptable condition for our country.

MADAGASCAR

RATSIRAKA REAFFIRMS POSITION ON OAU 'CRISIS'

AB211741 Paris AFP in French 1629 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Antananarivo, 21 Jul (AFP) -- President Didier Ratsiraka, whose participation in the forthcoming OAU summit in Tripoli is certain but has not yet been announced in the Malagasy capital, has reaffirmed the Malagasy Republic's position over the crisis facing the pan-African organization.

The Malagasy president made this known in Antananarivo this morning while receiving Col Sliman Hoffman, president of the FLN External Relations Department, who brought a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to his Malagasy counterpart.

President Ratsiraka particularly described the current crisis as "crucial" for the history of the OAU. He said it is necessary to save the OAU without sacrificing the SDAR, adding that "the interest of a state, even if it is a kingdom, must not be above that of the OAU."

"For we Malagasy people," President Ratsiraka recalled, "the SDAR admission is already a fact and there is no need to rescind this decision. To do this would amount to renouncing our ideals and those of the OAU and we would discredit ourselves before history."

President Ratsiraka expressed the hope that the heads of state who have not recognized the SDAR will attend the summit despite the announcement of their nonparticipation.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANGOLAN 'ALLEGATIONS' REJECTED; SWAPO WARNED

LD211658 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The South African Government has called on the secretary general of the United Nations to urge SWAPO to abandon its plans to expand armed activities in South-West Africa/Namibia.

In a letter to the secretary general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, rejecting the Angolan Government's allegations about activities of the South African security forces in the region, the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, said that if SWAPO should decline to heed the call, South African forces would have no alternative but to retaliate. Mr Botha said the South African Government wished to move to a conclusion of phase two of negotiations on the territory as soon as possible and was actively engaged in deliberations to achieve this end.

Referring to the Angolan Government's allegations, Mr Botha said it would seem that they were intended as a calculated smokescreen to hide SWAPO's real intentions. The South African Government was aware that SWAPO planned to step up its violence and aggression and the allegations now made against the security forces were aimed to direct attention away from these plans.

ENVOY TO U.S ASKED ABOUT 'SECRET DOCUMENT'

LD221108 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, says he has asked the South African ambassador in Washington to attempt to ascertain whether a secret document has been circulated alleging that the South African Government had suppressed information about certain terrorist attacks. Mr Botha referred to newspaper reports quoting such a document and said he would be astonished if the reports were correct, because this would mean that the American Government was being supplied with false information. Mr Botha said he would be astounded if it were shown that the U.S. Government did not have a system whereby false allegations could be checked out before being accepted by officials.

ANC ASKS SWAZILAND TO REJECT RSA LAND PROPOSAL

CA221046 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] The ANC of South Africa has asked Swaziland to reject a proposal by the Pretoria regime that Swaziland take over part of the South African territory. In a memorandum to the Swazi Government, released in the Zambian capital Lusaka, the ANC said the proposed transfer of the kaNgwane and Ingwavuma areas will make Swaziland an ally of the apartheid regime. It pointed out that the plan is intended to further the policy of transforming racist South Africa into a white man's country by depriving the entire African population of South African citizenship.

ZIMBABWE

STUTTAFORD CHARGED WITH PLOTTING OVERTHROW

AB211703 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Harare, Jul 21 (AFP) -- Zimbabwean M.P. Wally Stuttaford was today charged with plotting to overthrow the government.

Mr Stuttaford, 61, member for Bulawayo, was remanded until Monday on charges of holding two meetings with four other people to topple the government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe by armed force.

A certificate from Minister of Home Affairs Herbert Ushewokunze ruled out release on bail for the white Republican Front (RF) Party M.P.

Mr Stuttaford is at the same time likely to lose his seat because he has been unable to attend Parliament by virtue of being detained for the last seven months. It was announced yesterday in Parliament that proceedings will begin to remove him because he has been in jail for more than six months.

The Constitution states that such proceedings should start automatically if an M.P. is jailed for more than six months, according to Minister of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Eddison Zvobgo.

The case against Mr. Stuttaford is that he met with another RF M.P. from Bulawayo, Denis Walker, who left the country following the issue of a warrant for his arrest in January, and three followers of minority leader Joshua Nkomo's party, in order to plan a coup.

The coup, according to the prosecution, was to have been backed by former members of Mr Nkomo's guerrilla army, the Zimbabwe Peoples Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA).

The men that Mr Stuttaford allegedly met with are: Monwadisa Malumisa, a former Cabinet member in the transition, Zimbabwe-Rhodesian Government of 1979-80, Anthony Madhlela and Nephat Madhlela.

Mr Stuttaford has filed suit against the government alleging that security officers tortured him during the first month of his detention.

OFFICIAL ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY ON ARMY DEFECTIONS

CA211112 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMt 21 Jul 82

[Text] Most of the soldiers who have defected from the National Army were not involved in the actual fighting for liberation within Zimbabwe. The minister of state in the prime minister's office [title as heard], Comrade Sekeramayi, told the House of Assembly yesterday that some of them have been misled by political malcontents and were not willing to accept military discipline. Comrade Sekeramayi said those who had spent most of their years fighting for the country's liberation desired peace and stability. He said the solution of the activities of armed bandits was to liquidate them and action was being taken by the defense and security forces to deal with them. Comrade Sekeramayi said to maintain high standards in the army a British military training and an advisory team and Korean instructors were assisting Zimbabwe. The minister said after demobilization has been completed the National Army would number about 41,000.

Speaking in the House of Assembly, the minister of home affairs, Comrade Ushewokunze, said considerable progress has been made in flushing out dissidents and bandits in some areas. He said operations had been carried out in various parts of the country and the government was confident of containing the situation. On the control of political meetings in the country, the minister said he was ready to give permission to any party to hold a meeting as long as such parties applied on time.

HARARE REPORTS MUNANGAGWA COMMENTS ON 'BANDITRY'

CA211200 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Jul 82

[Text] The majority of people who attacked the prime minister's residence a few weeks ago have now been arrested. This was announced in the House of Assembly today by the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Comrade Munangagwa. Comrade Munangagwa who was replying to points raised by members of Parliament on the president's speech said civilians who were involved in the preparation of the attack have also been arrested.

Comrade Munangagwa assured the nation that the government possesses adequate facilities to bring a final solution to the current wave of banditry. He said once current investigations aimed at determining who had actual knowledge of the caching of arms discovered at ZAPU-owned property have ended they will be brought before the courts. He said more arms caches are being discovered. He told the house that last week more arms caches were discovered at Matopos. Comrade Munangagwa said attempts have been made by subversive elements inside Zimbabwe to use facilities in neighboring countries but without success. He said except South Africa all other neighbors have assured Zimbabwe of their support. He told the Pretoria regime that no purpose will be served by supporting elements bent on destabilizing the Government of Zimbabwe. He said bandits will never succeed because they have no political message to the people.

AFP REPORTS ON RECENT 'DISSIDENT' ATTACKS

School Attack

AB171000 Paris AFP in English 0932 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Bulawayo, southwestern Zimbabwe, July 17 (AFP) -- Dissident Zimbabweans killed one person and seriously injured another in an attack on a school in the Bembesi area, near hear, this week, it was announced Friday.

Meanwhile a magistrate here has sentenced a dissident former guerrilla to only 18 months imprisonment for possessing arms despite a call by Home Minister Herbert Ushewokunze for harsher jail terms for people guilty of threatening state security.

Passing sentence on Adam Ndhlovu, who was arrested on June 28 during a combined army and police swoop on the Bulawayo suburbs, Judge Chris Cockerton siad that although the offence carried a mandatory five year sentence the case involved special circumstances. He said Ndhlovu had been left with the gun for safe keeping and had been arrested two days before a deadline for handing in weapons to the police. The judge said he could not be intimidated into passing an inappropriate sentence.

Yesterday a senior judge said he had been assured by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe that Mr Ushewokunze's "unjustified and intemperate" attack on the courts "in no way represented the views of government."

Beer Hall Incident

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[Excerpts] Harare, July 18 (AFP) -- Armed men last night fired into a suburban Harare beerhall crowded with drinkers, killing one black man and wounding 12, Zimbabwe police said today.

It was not immediately clear whether last night's attack was carried out by "dissidents", the renegade guerrillas held responsible for a five-month wave of violence that has killed about 30 people. Police in Chitungwiza Township, south of Harare, said it appeared AK assault rifles, the favorite weapons of the dissidents, had been used. More than 50 spent shell casings had been recovered outside the Manhede beerhall less than a kilometer (about half a mile) from the police post, they said.

Four black soldiers, formerly in the guerrilla forces of minority leader Joshua Nkomo, have admitted taking part in attacks, authorities say. Mr Nkomo acknowledges some of his former guerrillas have turned against the government, from which he was dismissed in February on charges of stocking arms for a coup, but denies his party is encouraging them.